

THE PILGRIM

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No. 1

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

A NEW YEAR

He came to my desk with quivering lip--

The lesson was done.

"Dear Teacher, I want a new leaf," he said;

I've spoiled this one."

I took the old leaf, stained and blotted,

And gave him a new one all unspotted,

And into his sad eyes smiled,

"Do better, now, my child."

I went to the throne with a quivering soul--

The old year was done.

"Dear Father, hast Thou a new leaf for me?

I've spoiled this one."

He took the old leaf, stained and blotted,

And gave me a new one all unspotted,

And into my sad heart smiled,

"Do better, now, My child."

--Selected

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RESOLUTIONS FOR 2009

As I write, the light of the first day of 2009 is just breaking. What will take place in this new year? It lies ahead like an unbroken trail, new snow, or a blank page to write on. Where will we be at the end of 2009? What will be our goals, attitudes, our intentions? We change, we adjust, we try to accept our lot. But God does not change. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Knowing this and knowing the power and love of our Lord, what should be our resolutions as we begin another year? Can we say that God is good? Are we satisfied to live in His will? And what is His will for us? We don't have to go far to find out. The history of God's people is unmistakable. When they submitted to His will, they were blessed. When they rebel serving "other gods," they suffered His disfavor. Read Deuteronomy 27 and 28 where God details the blessings and the cursings.

Is our relationship to Him similar today? Now we are privileged to be sons and daughters of God but with even more responsibility. Hebrews 2:1-3 includes this question: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Our duty is not quite the same as theirs was because we are not under the same covenant. Theirs was a covenant of works: ". . . Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them." (Gal. 3:10) The new covenant features God's grace. The laws of God are in the heart and sins are forgiven. How blest we are! How responsible!

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." (Titus 3:5)

Under the new covenant we serve without condemnation. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1) This does not mean we can do as we please--quite the opposite. By His help we can walk after the Spirit.

So again, what resolutions should we make as we enter 2009? If we understand our need, we will resolve to live closer to Him. If we understand our need, we will fear being drawn into the ways of the world.

When I was in 1W service over fifty years ago, the 1W boys ate together in the hospital cafeteria. From different churches and backgrounds, these boys had interesting discussions. I remember one boy responding to statements of the others with "Define your terms!" It is important to understand each other and not always use generalities.

So, what do we mean by "living closer to Him"? It means living unselfishly for others. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." It means studying His Word to know Him better. It means praying for His counsel and praising Him for His grace and mercy.

And what do we mean by "fearing to be drawn into the ways of the world." John writes to "love not the world." James 4:4 says, ". . .whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." Peter says our adorning should not be plaiting the hair, wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel--things that are important to the world. They *draw* attention. He says we should be adorned (or decorated) with a meek and quiet spirit; this spirit is of great price--valuable in the sight of God.

We also should fear for our children. They are exposed to even more temptation than we older ones were. As parents we are directed to bring up our children in the fear of the Lord. More generalities, but there are real dangers out there in the

areas of internet, cell phones that have potential for good or evil, music and entertainments that are habit-forming and demanding. How responsible we older ones are to teach and set good examples. Another call for resolutions to raise our standards.

As the year begins, let the Holy Spirit direct us in making and keeping good resolves. May we grow in holiness and Christ-likeness in 2009. --L.C.

IMITATION OF CHRIST

Of the Love of Jesus Above All Things

Blessed is he that understandeth what it is to love Jesus, and to despise himself for Jesus' sake. Thou oughtest to leave thy beloved, for thy Beloved; for that Jesus will be loved alone above all things. The love of things created is deceitful and inconstant; the love of Jesus is faithful and persevering. He that cleaveth unto a creature, shall fall with that which is subject to fall; he that embraceth Jesus shall be strong for ever.

2. Love Him, and keep Him for thy friend, who, when all go away, will not forsake thee, nor suffer thee to perish in the end. Some time or other thou must be separated from all, whether thou wilt or no. Keep close to Jesus both in life and in death, and commit thyself unto His faithfulness, who, when all fail, can alone help thee.

Thy Beloved is of that nature, that He will admit of no rival; but will have thy heart alone, and sit on His throne as King. If thou couldest empty thyself perfectly from all creatures, Jesus would willingly dwell with thee.

3. Whatsoever thou reposest in men, out of Jesus, thou shalt find almost wholly lost. Trust not nor lean upon a reed shaken by the wind; for that all flesh is grass, and all the glory thereof shall wither away as the flower of grass.

Quickly shalt thou be deceived, if thou only look to the outward appearance of men. For if in others thou seekest thy comfort and profit, thou shalt too often feel loss. If thou seekest in all things Jesus, thou shalt surely find Jesus. But if thou seekest thyself, thou shalt also find thyself, but to thine own destruction. For man is more hurtful to himself if he seek not Jesus, than the whole world and all his adversaries.

Thomas A Kempis

A THIEF IN OUR HOUSE!

I never dreamed he was a thief when I let him come into our living room. I had reservations on the truth of many of his stories, but his experiences excited me. I invited him to come back the following night.

My wife reminded me his return visit conflicted with midweek prayer meeting. "I should attend," I confessed. "but I must stand by the invitation I have given this friend."

She was reluctant to accept him. "I just don't trust him," she confided. She grew steadily more concerned as he took up more of our family life.

My entire day was boring, compared to my evenings with this character. He had an imagination that was captivating. I would sit and laugh myself sick at his experiences. His scrapes with the law were absolutely breathtaking.

He had quite an effect on my teenage son and my nine-year-old daughter, too. They just couldn't wait to catch his latest quip or some hair-raising tale. They would have stayed up all hours if we had allowed it.

I began to worry about this fellow's presence in our home, especially when he boasted of immoral sex adventures.

And then it came. One day I missed several of my books. "This fellow may be something of a thief," I concluded. "If he

is, who can tell what else he's taken?" I decided to check with my neighbors. Sure enough, he had taken things from them, too.

I was amazed by his subtle maneuvers. In one home he had entered as a religious teacher. In fact, Sunday and midweek church service time was spent with this fellow. A salesman down the block knew him as an efficiency expert--"Something a successful business can put to use."

To these people I suggested a check of their belongings. Most were missing something. At one home it was Christian magazines. In another, the Bible.

Finally, I realized that my visitor was afflicted with kleptomania. Like an inveterate thief, he had stolen my books, magazines, and time. But the chief thing missing was my closeness to Christ.

Kleptomaniacs are not always deliberately bad. Even this one might profitably drop in with his tidbits of news and a helpful word. But you must keep your eyes open, or he will continually steal things.

Has he been in your home? He's best known by his initials: TV.

I wonder: What has TV stolen from you? Time? Devotions? Good reading? Wholesome conversation? Church attendance? Check your list and see. You may be very surprised at what you'll find missing.

By Don W. Hillis.

From Vera Overholt's *Scrapbook of Ideas* #2

ADDRESS CHANGE

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A REVERIE WRITTEN IN THE PERSON OF
JOHN THE BELOVED

At evening time it shall be light.
I'm growing very old. This weary head
That hath so often leaned on Jesus' breast
In days long past that seem almost a dream,
These limbs that followed Him--my Master--oft
From Galilee to Judah, that stood
Beneath the cross, and trembled with His groans,
Refuse to bear me even through the streets
To preach unto my children. E'en my lips
Refuse to form the words my heart sends forth,
Of my dear children gathered round my couch;
God lays His hand upon me--yea, His hand
And not His rod--the gentle hand that I
Felt, those three years, so often pressed in mine,
In friendship such as passeth woman's love.

I'm old; so old I cannot recollect
The faces of my friends; and I forget
The words and deeds that make up daily life,
But that dear face, and every word He spoke,
Grow more distinct as others fade away,
So that I live with Him and holy dead
More than with living.

Some seventy years ago
I was a fisher by the sacred sea.
It was at sunset. How the tranquil tide
Bathed dreamily the pebbles! How the light
Crept up the distant hills, and in its wake,
Soft purple shadows wrapped the dewy fields!

And then He came and called me. Then I gazed
For the first time on that sweet face.

Those eyes,
From out of which, as from a window, shone
Divinity, looked on my inmost soul,
And lighted it forever. Then His words
Broke on the silence of my heart and made
The whole world musical. Incarnate Love
Took hold of me and claimed me for its own.
I followed in the twilight, holding fast His mantle.

O, what holy walks we had,
Through harvest fields, and desolate dreary wastes!
Wearied and wayworn. I was young and strong,
And so upbore Him. Lord, now I am weak,
And old, and feeble! Let me rest on Thee!
So, put Thine arm around me. Closer still!
How strong Thou art! The twilight draws apace.
Come, let us leave these noisy streets and take
The path to Bethany; for Mary's smile
Awaits us at the gate, and Martha's hands
Have long prepared the evening meal.
Come, James, the Master waits; and Peter, see
Has gone some steps before.

What say you, friends?
That this is Ephesus, and Christ has gone
Back to His kingdom? Ay, 'tis so, 'tis so.
I know it all; and yet, just now, I seemed
To stand once more upon my native hills,
And touch my Master. Oh, how oft I've seen
The touching of His garments bring back strength
To palsied limbs! I feel it has to mine.

Up! bear me once more to my church! Once more
There let me tell them of a Saviour's love;
For, by the sweetness of my Master's voice
Just now I think He must be very near--
Coming, I trust, to break the veil, which time
Has worn so thin that I can see beyond,
And watch His footsteps.

So, raise my head.
How dark it is! I cannot seem to see
The faces of my flock. Is that the sea
That murmurs so, or is it weeping? Hush,
My little children! God so loved the world
He gave His Son. So love ye one another.
Love God and man. Amen. Now bear me back.
My legacy unto an angry world is this.
I feel my work is finished. Are the streets so full?
What, call the folk my name? The Holy John. Nay,
Write me rather, Jesus Christ's beloved.
And lover of my children.

Lay me down
Once more upon my couch, and open wide
The eastern window. See, there comes a light
Like that which broke upon my soul at eve,
When, in the dreary Isle of Patmos, Gabriel came
And touched me on the shoulder. See it grows
As when we mounted toward the pearly gates.
I know the way! I trod it once before.
And hark! It is the song the ransomed sang
Of glory to the Lamb! How loud it sounds!
And that unwritten one--methinks my soul
Can join it now. But who are these who crowd
The Shining way? Say! -- joy! 'tis the eleven,

With Peter first! How eagerly he looks!
 How bright the smiles are beaming on James' face!
 I am the last. Once more we are complete
 To gather round the Pascal feast. My place
 Is next my Master. O my Lord, my Lord!
 How bright Thou art! and yet the very same
 I loved in Galilee! 'Tis worth the hundred years
 To feel this bliss! So lift me up, dear Lord.
 Unto Thy bosom. There shall I abide.

By H.J.S.B in *The Sword and Trumpet*.

 ONLY JUST A MINUTE

I have only just a minute,
 Only sixty seconds in it.
 Forced upon me, can't refuse it,
 Didn't seek it--didn't choose it.
 But it's up to me to use it,
 And I suffer if I lose it,
 Give account if I abuse it;
 I have only just a minute
 But eternity is in it.

Selected

Happy New Year! For many this is renewal time. Let us know if you are staying with us. We send free samples on request. Our rate for 2009 is a donation of \$7.50.

To those who support us prayerfully, send inspirational writings, and generous financial assistance we say "Thank You." Our Yellow Creek Congregation faithfully helps with our losses.

Thank you to Bill Miller for our mailing labels and Sarah Martin for updates and the index.

Pray for us. The time is short. "Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands." (Nehemiah 6:9)

Leslie and Martha Cover

OBITUARY

DR. THOMAS R. ANDERSON, 54, of Delphi died unexpectedly at 6:40 a.m. Thursday, November 27, 2008, in Logansport Memorial Hospital, Indiana.

Born June 14, 1954, in Jacksonville, Illinois, he was the son of Orieda Horn Anderson and the late Howard Anderson. He was married December 30, 1978, in Burrows, to Lucinda A. "Cindy" Been, who survives.

He was a 1972 graduate of high school in Clinton, Iowa. He received his B.A. in biology from Northwestern University in 1978, his M.D. from the University of Iowa in 1982 and finished his residency in family practice in 1985 at Ball Memorial Hospital, Muncie, Indiana.

He started in the emergency room at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lafayette, then joined Arnett Health, working in Lafayette and Delphi. He began family practice in Delphi in 1985, then opened his own office in Camden in 1990.

Dr. Anderson was a one-of-a-kind physician, delivering babies at home and caring for his patients at his home. He not only was their doctor, but he bonded with them and had lasting friendships that went way beyond doctor-patient care.

He was a member of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Practitioners. He was a member of the Hickory Grove Church and enjoyed singing in the church choir. He enjoyed making pottery, vegetable gardening, beekeeping, cooking and woodworking. He dearly loved his family and the time he spent with them.

Also surviving are daughters, Martha and Dan Long, West Lafayette, and Lily A. Anderson, at home; sons, Ben and Amanda Anderson, Erie, Pennsylvania, and Sam H. Anderson-Been, at home; mother, Orieda Anderson, Moline, Illinois; sister, Judith and Richard Franing, Moline, Illinois; brothers, John and Maryann Anderson, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Ed and

Elizabeth Anderson, Concord, Illinois; and in-laws, Herbert and Mildred Been, Delphi.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Pastor Ken Smith officiated at the service held Sunday in First Assembly of God Church, Pittsburgh. Burial was in Brown Church Cemetery, Rockfield.

Dr. Anderson will be greatly missed by his patients and friends near and far.

MY NEW YEAR AIM

Not yet attained! But still my feet are pressing
Toward those heights which lie outstretched before;
That which the past has held of heavenly blessing
Will not suffice; I hunger still for more.
And now as dawns for me one more new year,
So grant, O Lord, 'twill bring me yet more near.

More near to Thee! Yea, Lord, and ever nearer,
Forgetting all the things now left behind;
My aim is higher ground, with vision clearer,
To see Thee close, though steep the path may wind.
Forgive, O Lord, the blindness of the past;
Be still my guide, I pray, and hold me fast!

"One thing I do!" My time cannot be squandered
In grieving o'er mistakes of years now gone;
Though in side paths my feet have oft times wandered,
Yet reach I forward still--Lord, help me on!
And grant this year, in mercy given to me,
May lead to untrod heights, close, close to Thee.

By Pearl Howard
Selected

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Twelve Spies and Giants

We sing, "Twelve men went to spy on Canaan, Ten were bad, and two were good." The two good spies, Joshua and Caleb, saw the very same things the ten bad spies saw. All twelve saw giants, big and tall! In fact, the Bible says that the spies felt like grasshoppers beside these giants.

Think for a minute about the grasshoppers you are familiar with, and think how big you are compared to them. Even a one-year-old, if he were quick enough, could step on a grasshopper and crush it. Now think about being beside someone you know that is very tall. If you didn't know that person was kind, wouldn't it be scary to stay beside him? He could easily pick you up and do whatever he wanted to do to you.

These spies were not children. They were grown men, and some of them might have been as tall as the tallest person you know. But the giants were ever so much taller, wider, and stronger. In fact, one notable giant, Og King of Bashan's bed was nine cubits long, or thirteen and a half feet long. It was as wide as my bed is long, and over twice as long as my bed. I think the giants could have been twice as tall as men we know. Do you blame the "bad" spies for being scared?

Why do we call the ten spies "bad" and Joshua and Caleb "good"? We might say it was their attitudes. Or, whether or not they had faith in God. As the song says, "Some saw God was over all." That was what Joshua and Caleb saw and believed. The other ten spies shrunk back in fear, not having faith in God's power. They weren't "bad" because they did mean, ugly things. They were "bad" because they didn't trust God, and because they tried to discourage everyone else and

keep them from doing what God wanted the Israelites to do, which was to enter Canaan and conquer those giants.

Even so today. We have bad men and good men. The bad men do not have faith in God's great power and ability to conquer the giants they face. Therefore, they give up and live wicked lives far away from God and His will.

The good men have faith in God. They trust God to do what He has said in His Word, and they love God because they can trust Him to take care of them and save their souls.

Which will you be? A fearful, bad spy? Or, a faithful, trusting spy? You can decide now to be faithful and trusting, and your parents will help you to grow up to be just that.

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world." (1 John 4:14)

HUMILITY, THOU SECRET VALE

Humility, thou secret vale,
Unknown to proud in heart;
Where showers of blessing never fail,
And glories ne'er depart.

Humility, how pure thy place!
Thou seat of holiness!
Thou door of entrance into grace
And everlasting bliss!

Humility, how calm the breast
That knows thy peace sublime!
Within thy courts our perfect rest
Grows sweeter all the time.

Humility, thou shoreless sea
Of perfect love so deep!
Thy crystal waters cover me,
My helpless soul to keep.

Chorus:

Oh, make thy blest abode with me,
Thou angel of the sky;
If I may ever dwell with thee
My soul shall never die.

By William G. Schell from the *Christian Hymnal*

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WARM OR COLD?

It has been cold. We talk of cold weather, cold water, a cold house. Cold is the absence of heat, and, strange as it may seem, things that feel cold still have some heat. One of our questions in science was, "Which contains more heat, an iceberg or a drop of molten iron?" Questions like this are about the physical, but I would like to make some comparisons.

God wants us to be warm in the Spirit. To be cold is to be indifferent to conditions around us. It is not a compliment to say, "That person is so cold!" We want to be warm and friendly. We even hear of those "on fire" for God. We mean they are zealous--active and concerned about God's will. Jesus said that in the last times, the love of many shall wax cold.

Scientists tell us that molecules in hot material are active, fast-moving, while molecules in cold things are moving slowly. Is this true in spiritual areas? Zealous Christians are warm and active. Cold and unresponsive would describe someone careless. But is "cold" in the spirit only the absence of warmth and God's presence?

To be without God's Spirit would be sad enough, but we do have an adversary who would be glad to hide. Some say he does not exist. One friend commented, "What better disguise?!" Sure he would like to remain unidentified while he does his wicked work of temptation and causes conflict and division in the church.

However, we cannot give the excuse, "The devil made me do it," and we cannot blame God. James 1:13,14: "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But

every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."

But going deeper, where does lust come from? James also wrote (4:7), "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Simple and profound, but not possible without our Savior's help.

God is on the throne. See the beauties of His world and especially the beauty of holiness. Jesus was the winner when He met His enemy at Calvary, fulfilling the promise in Eden that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head, even though the serpent would bruise His heel. See young people (and older) being called today to life in Christ. Young Christians are enquiring about places to serve in today's desperate world.

Scientists warn of global warming, but let us pray for warming in the church. Another depression is here reminding us how blest we are. We have been like Laodicea: "Rich and increased with goods." The world would have us *buy and spend*, but God's way is *save and give*. Younger people who have not felt the influence of the depression of the thirties, need teaching on money management and handling of "things." This is one place where God gives responsibility as stewards.

We don't really own the things we say are ours. "What hast thou that thou didst not receive?" questions Paul. Why do we act like we didn't receive it and claim all we have as our own? By Christian Aid Ministry's presentation we have seen some of the needs in our world. Will we remain cold and indifferent? Or will we allow God to warm our hearts and inspire us to share more?

CAM tells of a young girl who gave for relief the money she had saved for a doll. A nine year old gave his earnings from odd jobs. A family of cousins donated Bible story books instead of exchanging gifts. School children had a donation box for people who needed food. In our own school, students

"earned" money for good grades and dedicated it to schools in Haiti.

The list goes on of self-sacrificing Christians. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren," says Jesus, "ye have done it unto me." Here is positive evidence of warmth in the hearts of God's people. Let us overcome the cold. --L.C.

EARS TO HEAR

When Dr. Melvin Scheinman, world renown pioneer heart electro physiologist with the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco, explained my heart condition I had "Ears to Hear." What Dr. Scheinman told me is vital to my health. When Jesus, the Great Physician, speaks do I have "Ears to Hear"? What the Lord tells me has eternal consequences. In both cases it is important to have "Ears to Hear." In the Gospels and in the book of Revelation, the Lord made frequent use of the phrase, "He that has ears to hear let him hear." What are ears to hear? What is your answer to this question?

A degree of humility is required in a good listener. A know it all is hard to talk to. In Jesus' time the scribes and Pharisees believed they knew it all and did not accept the teachings of Jesus. They did not have ears to hear. Some people believe their concepts of some matters are such that they need no further learning. Such a one does not have ears to hear. The important question for us is, do we have hearts to hear?

Do we come to church services with ears to hear? Are we willing and able to receive inspiration and instruction? Do we allow the Holy Spirit to direct our thinking? I would encourage a self examination each Lord's Day morning. Do not allow the cares of this world to drown out God's Word. You can do little about your problems while sitting in church, so just let the Lord

handle your pending worries and participate in the worship service.

Self discipline is essential in effective listening. The Apostle James instructs us to be "swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." Wisdom is necessary to handle what we hear. Are our words to others going to be received by "ears to hear"? If so, consider how vital it is that our words do not offend but rather encourage.

I feel that our contemporary society tends to discourage good listening. In 1943 my folks got a telephone. When the phone rang we were anxious to answer and hear what the caller had to say. Today, unless we take action to block the calls, we are wearied and annoyed by many telemarketers. The news media is so inundated by sensationalism that often little attention is given to note worthy news. Normal sounds of nature are being drowned out by blaring headsets. I'm sure the adversary is pleased to thus dull the hearing and perception.

When God's Word is proclaimed or someone speaks to us it is our responsibility to "Have Ears to Hear."

Joseph E. Wagner
Modesto, California

HUSBAND AND WIFE COMMUNICATION

Communication is vital to all relationships. Communication involves much more than talking to someone and that person talking to you.

Bringing God into the communication adds a new dimension. Communication also takes on more significance in spiritual relationships. When Christ communicated with two of His disciples on the way to Emmaus, they spoke of it this way: "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32).

What is communication?

True communication is difficult. We sometimes think we have expressed ourselves very clearly, and yet others understand something entirely different from what we meant.

Communication is an intricate and complicated art. It involves our thoughts, attitudes, emotions, speech, the differences in our perspectives, and much more. It involves two or more people speaking and relating in ways that bring mutual understanding, drawing attitudes, feelings, and viewpoints together. Through honesty, openness, and unselfishness, communication builds relationships. It is not deceptive.

Argument and debate build barriers. Making sure that we get our point across is not communication but selfishness. In this respect, communication should strive to understand more than to be understood.

Communication with God as Husband and Wife

God is open with us. He has given us His Word and His indwelling Holy Spirit. But how is our communication with Him? Are we open and honest? Do we bare our hearts before Him? Do we communicate regularly? Personal devotions are especially vital for husbands and wives. Why?

- * to maintain our personal relationship with God
- * to draw us together as husband and wife
- * to be a proper example to our children
- * to learn from God how to teach and train our children

We each need a regular schedule for personal devotions, or it will die. Our personal devotions dare not be a haphazard formality but require diligent effort. Keep goals in mind: to grow, to draw closer to God, and to learn wisdom for our task of parenting. Our personal time with God goes hand in hand with our overall spiritual life and our relationship as husband and wife.

We also need to spend time together with God. We do this through family devotions. Some time spent together with God

as husband and wife in addition to family worship is also important. We need to pray for each other and together share with God our needs, our struggles, and the decisions we face. Remember that our communication with God has a major influence on our communication with each other.

Communicating with Each Other

Selfishness is one of the biggest hindrances to communication. Selfishness causes us to lack love for others and to insist on our own ideas.

Communication is important in so many ways. We need to communicate on a spiritual level and understand each other's physical and emotional differences and needs. We also need to understand each other's roles in God's order of headship.

We must know what each other thinks and strive to become more unified in spiritual things. We need openness with each other so we can blend our goals and convictions. Without understanding and openness, there will be turmoil. Without communication, there will be no understanding.

God created the emotional makeup of men and women differently. We each can benefit from this if we understand and relate to it rightly. Our differences can balance and safeguard each of us. Women tend to be more sensitive than men and will respond somewhat differently to grief, sorrow, changes, stress, death, or disappointments. Husbands need to understand this. "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." (I Peter 3:7).

Men tend to be more calloused to the disappointments and sorrows of life. They tend to hide their emotions, and on the surface it may appear as if they do not care. But that is not true. They are simply responding differently. Wives need to understand this. Women tend to want to talk about their stress. Men tend to be alone and to not talk.

On the physical level, we also need to be open and to communicate with each other. Our physical needs and desires are different. These we need to discuss so we learn to understand each other. Serious turmoil and stress will result if we fail to communicate openly and to understand each other in these intimate matters.

In all these areas of life--spiritual, emotional, and physical--the husband has needs that only the wife can meet and the wife has needs that only the husband can fill. Unselfishness, love, and openness must reign in order to meet each other's needs. In God's plan, husband and wife complement each other spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

We must also understand, obey, and submit to God's established order of headship. "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of Christ is God." (I Corinthians 11:3). Ephesians 5:22-33 also speaks of the headship order.

The husband is not the boss or the dictator, but the head. In salvation, man and woman are equal. But in the area of headship, God has set up an order that needs to be followed to have His blessing.

Husband, love your wife. Love her as your own body. Love her as Christ loved the church. This love is unselfish and sacrificial. Such love puts your wife's good ahead of your own, making it easy for her to submit. Tell her you love her. Tell her often and sincerely. Communicate your love by word and deed. Your wife should never need to question your love and faithfulness to her. Love is communicated by word, by courtesies, by little acts of kindness, and by careful faithfulness.

Wife, you are to submit to your husband as unto the Lord. And how do we Christians submit to the Lord? We willingly and completely surrender because we realize our submission to Him is for our good. Thus it should also be between husband and wife. When the husband loves his wife as Christ loves the

church, then she can gladly and freely submit to him, knowing that he wants what is best for her. Her place of submission is one of joy, fulfillment, and security. This is God's plan, and it works.

We need to understand this headship order and openly communicate about it. We each need to ask God to help us find our place. Again, openness with each other is vital. In this way, we can help each other fill our respective roles if our spirits and motives are right.

Husband, seek your wife's counsel and advice, even though you carry the responsibility for decision making. Her advice is very valuable and will save you some unwise decisions.

Wife, do not push or pressure your husband, but do be open. Share your thoughts and ideas. When he asks, tell him what you think, but do not push.

God desires that we be open to Him and to each other. This is the only way to have a proper relationship with each other, especially spiritually. Keeping close to God helps us to draw closer to each other. The more open we are with each other, the more we will develop confidence, understanding, and appreciation for each other.

Daniel Hartzler in *Light of Life*
Selected by Herman Royer

IMITATION OF CHRIST

How Few Are the Lovers of the Cross of Jesus

Jesus hath now many lovers of His heavenly kingdom, but few bearers of His Cross. Many He hath that are desirous of consolation, but few of tribulation. Many He findeth that share His table, but few His fasting. All desire to rejoice with Him, few are willing to endure any thing for Him. Many follow Jesus unto the breaking of bread; but few to the drinking of the Cup of His Passion. Many reverence His miracles; few follow the

shame of His Cross. Many love Jesus so long as no adversities befall them. Many praise and bless Him, so long as they receive any consolations from Him. But if Jesus hide Himself, and leave them but a little while, they fall either into complaining, or into too much dejection of mind.

But they who love Jesus for the sake of Jesus, and not for some special comfort of their own, bless Him in all tribulation and anguish of heart, as well as in the highest comfort. Yea, although He should never be willing to give them comfort, Himself notwithstanding they would ever praise, and wish to be always giving thanks. O how powerful is the pure love of Jesus, which is mixed with no self-interest or self-love!

Are not all those to be called hirelings, who are ever seeking consolations? Do they not shew themselves to be rather lovers of themselves than of Christ, who are always thinking of their own advantage and profit?

2. Where shall one be found who is willing to serve God for nought? Rarely is any one found so spiritual. . . For who shall find a man that is indeed poor in spirit and stript of every created thing? *From afar, yea, above rubies is his price.*

*If a man should give all his substance, yet is it nothing. And if he should practise great penance, still it is little. And if he should attain to all knowledge, still he is afar off. And if he should have great virtue and very fervent devotion, yet there is much wanting to him; especially, one thing which is for him most chiefly necessary. What is that? That, forsaking all, he forsake himself and go forth wholly from himself and retain nothing of self-love. And when he hath done all that he knoweth ought to be done, let him think that he hath done nothing. Let him not weigh that much which might be much esteemed; but let him pronounce himself to be in truth an unprofitable servant as the Truth saith, *When you shall have done all things that are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants.**

Then may he be truly poor and naked in spirit, and say with the prophet *I am alone and poor*. Yet no man richer than he, no man more powerful, no man more free: for he is able to leave himself and all things, and to set himself in the lowest place.

Thomas A Kempis

TRUST

I wish I'd never fear again
And yet I know I will,
But He who comforteth me now
Will be my comfort still.
I wish the splendid truths of faith
I've worked so hard to learn
Would stay with me, and yet I know
The doubtings will return.
But He who loved to teach me then
Will still be standing by,
And He will deign to teach again
A pupil such as I.
That when I enter Heaven's gates
Not one shall look at me,
And say, "Behold, what child-like trust,
What splendid faith has she!"
But He shall hold the loving gaze
Of all adoring eyes,
My teacher, Jesus Christ,
So patient, kind, and wise,
Who stooped to teach a quaking heart
Great things of faith, and when
It had forgotten, loved enough
To teach it all again.

Mary Miller in *My Home by the River*

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS**A Hundred Necessary Rules of Conduct for Children****--in the house of its parents:**

1. Dear child, as soon as you are called in the morning, arise; indeed, accustom yourself to "awaken" at the proper time without being called, and to rise without loitering.

2. When you have left your bed, turn back the covers.

3. Let your first thoughts be turned toward God after the example of David, who saith: "when I awake, I am still with thee."

4. Bid a good morning to those whom you meet first and to your parents, sisters and brothers; not from mere habit, but do it out of true love.

5. Accustom yourself to dress quickly, but at the same time neatly.

7. When you wash your face and hands, do not splash water about the room.

--at meals

22. Do not lean during grace, and do not let your eyes roam about, but be attentive and reverent before the holy majesty of God.

25. Avoid everything that indicates excessive hunger, such as looking greedily at food; being the first one in the dish, . . . taking one's spoon too full. . .

31. Chew your food with closed lips, and do not make a noise by scraping your plate.

--at school

51. Dear child, when you enter the school, bow respectfully and take your place quietly, think of the presence of God.

54. Always be obedient to your teacher and do not cause him to remind you of the same thing many times.

63. Keep your books clean inside and out; do not scribble or draw in them; do not lose or tear them.

65. When school is out do not make a clatter. In going down stairs do not jump two or three steps at a time, lest you hurt yourself. Go quietly home.

Excerpts from *School Management* by Christopher Dock

Compiled by Lester Showalter

FOR YOUTH

DO NOT LET GO MY HAND

I'm struggling, Lord. You know I am.
The night is so black; the way so steep.
Weary and hopeless, I stand and weep.
The lightening flashes; the wind blows high.
I need to care when You aren't nigh.
But please, do not let go my hand.

I'm struggling, Lord, You know I am.
Too high is the cost to follow You.
My fellow travelers are too few.
The mocking I am tired of.
It seems so many test my love.
But please, do not let go my hand.

I'm giving up, Lord. You know I am.
My lofty aims and beliefs resign.
The brutal truth I do now decline.
The past of my life means nothing now.
The peace of Christ was lost, but how?
Oh please, do not let go my hand.

I'm terrified, Lord. You know I am.
I gave it all up, and I lost You.
It felt like hell for moments few.
Than be without You I'd rather die.
I cannot live without You nigh.
So please, do not let go my hand.

I am so weak, Lord. You know I am.
For me, alone on the cross You lay.
You've held my hand on life's rocky way.
You have given me joy and peace and love.
You've led me by Your gentle dove.
So please, do not let go my hand.

*I'm full of love, child. You know I am.
Your hand, dear child, I will not let go.
Your weakness I do surely know.
And I am calling. "Oh, come to me.
Outstretched arms are waiting for thee."
I will never let go your hand.*

I'm coming, Father. You know I am.
To You so close I'll let You hold me.
Your faithful love again I do see.
Within your arms it is safe to talk.
I'll share with You about life's walk.
I know You'll not let go my hand.

I'm bound to You, Lord. You know I am.
Your endless love is the strongest cord.
You are my Father, my King and Lord.
When the night grows dark and strong winds whip,
When on Your hand I lose my grip
I know You'll not let go my hand.

Within Your arms I know I can stand.
When the way is dark and rough and steep,
I turn to You as a little sheep.
With love You'll chasten and guide and care.
How couldn't I with You my heart share?
I know You'll not let go my hand.

Lora Huffinan
Dayton, Ohio

CHILDREN'S PAGE

A Bridled Tongue

I would like to tell you a true story about my grandpa. This story happened long before my mother was born, when Grandpa was first married.

His wife had twins, but, alas! his wife and both babies died! Oh how sad he was! So sad he wished he could die, too! It was a long time before he was happy again.

Many years later, when I was young, I heard how depressed (sad) he was when his first wife died. I said he should have had more faith in God instead of giving up like he did, and maybe I was partly right, but two things have happened since then to show me I should have bridled my tongue, as the Bible teaches in James.

One thing that happened is that I suffered similar depression even though nothing so very bad happened to me. Now I understood him better.

Now we have learned of something else that added to his pain, which makes me respect him much more. Recently a member of his first family made it known that after she died, her

family had demanded that he pay back the money they had given her when they married.

How cruel! They had not cared that he was hurting! And I doubt he even had that much money any more!

Thankfully the church said he did not have to pay it back, and told them they were not to talk about it any more. And Grandpa obeyed! His children had never heard any thing about it because Grandpa had bridled his tongue.

When someone hurts us, it is hard not to talk to others about it. But my grandpa obeyed Matthew eighteen. He protected her family's reputation. That means his children did not dislike her family because of what they did.

Now I think Grandpa did better than I am doing, and I want to learn to be more like he was. I want to bridle my tongue!

Martha Wagner
Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

MY BROTHER

Two words there are that thrill my heart
And cause my sluggish blood to start,
When I with my dear brethren meet,
And in a Christian manner greet,
With high regard salute each other,
And then sincerely say, "My brother."

Then while with his companion shake,
Inquiry to her health I make,
Though audibly I may not say
Those words, I keep in mind alway:
Each female member I may claim
"A sister" in the Savior's name.

Oh what a pleasant place were this,
A brief foretaste of future bliss,
If in this whole wide world around,
Goodwill and love alone were found,
And men when greeting one another
Should smile and kindly say, "My brother."

Guy Hootman

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THE PRINCIPAL THING

A riddle: What is better to have than gold and rubies; yet for lack of which folks die; something we can obtain by being reproved and punished. It is better than strength or weapons, and is called "the principal thing"? It is wisdom.

It reminds us of Solomon, the wisest man of his time. But in spite of his many wise decisions and expressions in his writings, there were things lacking in his life and some choices which were decidedly unwise. Although Solomon was given great wisdom from God, he did not always follow it.

What is true wisdom? A good definition comes from the life of a man who had it and let it control his life. That is the first Christian martyr, Stephen.

Stephen lived when the early church was in the throes of development and expansion. The Jews were still smarting from the truth of the Gospel which Jesus preached, established, and died and rose for. Jerusalem and Israel could never be the same. There was sharp opposition, but the Lord was working out His plan which had been determined from the foundation of the world.

Into this arena of conflict stepped Stephen. The twelve apostles needed helpers. People were complaining that widows were being neglected. Rather than leave their most important work of preaching the Word of God, the apostles had the brethren choose seven men who could do the physical work of ministering to the needs of the new congregation at Jerusalem. Today we would call them deacons. The first of these was Stephen, "a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost." The apostles prayed and laid their hands on them, and they began their work as leaders in the Church.

"And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people." (Acts 6:8).

The Jews immediately reacted with violence against this faithful worker. Jerusalem, as the center of Judaism, contained learned men from many regions, promoting the cause of Israel. They may have congregated there for the purpose of resisting or stamping out this new sect which was making such progress. These men were of "the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and them of Cilicia and of Asia." (Cilicia was the region of Tarsus, and Saul was probably in this group.) They arose and began "disputing with Stephen."

One would think that Stephen would be no match for such a number of learned Jews, but this was not the case. The word says, "And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake." Stephen was led by the Holy Spirit and had this true wisdom, something more than knowledge.

We may tend to equate knowledge with wisdom. Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Then 9:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Both are valuable, but they are not the same.

William Cowper, the hymn writer, wrote:

"Knowledge and wisdom, far from being one,
Have oft times no connection. Knowledge dwells
In heads replete with thoughts of other men;
Wisdom in minds attentive to their own.
Knowledge, a rude, unprofitable mass,
The mere materials, with which Wisdom builds,
Till smoothed and squared and fitted to its place,
Does not encumber whom it seems to enrich.
Knowledge is proud, that he has learned so much;
Wisdom is humble, that he knows no more.

Christians are not opposed to true education--gaining knowledge. But many colleges and universities are hazardous environments for our young Christians--especially for those not firmly established in the faith of Jesus Christ. Wisdom is not obtained by education. If it were, the Jews would have had no difficulty with Stephen.

They lacked the power to resist the wisdom of Stephen. Matthew Henry wrote, "They thought they had only disputed with Stephen; but they were disputing with the Spirit of God in him, for whom they were an unequal match." The Jews then "suborned (persuaded or bribed) men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God." They treated Stephen like they had treated Jesus, and brought him before the council. As they looked on him they "saw his face as it had been the face of an angel."

Stephen had knowledge as well as wisdom. Acts 7 tells his defense before the council. He gave detail after detail of the history of his people beginning with Abraham. Perhaps he was proving that he was not a blasphemer but a true worshipper of God, one who was aware of God's acts in the history of His people. Finally he charged them as "Stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears." In eloquent terms he declared them the children of those who persecuted the prophets and the actual betrayers and murderers of Jesus, the Just One.

We may think Stephen was not too wise to accuse those leaders the way he did. But this is part of the wisdom by which he spoke and was declared centuries later in our own time by Jim Elliott, also martyred in Christian service: "A man is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Stephen gave his life to gain eternal life with God.

How do we obtain what Stephen had? James says (1:5), "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." He adds, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering." James also

defines this wisdom: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." If we wish to know how wise we are, go over this definition point by point and we can tell. Are we pure? Peaceable? Gentle? We will realize we need the grace, forgiveness, and Holy Spirit of God to be this way.

God's promise to the wise is in a prophecy of Daniel (12:3) about the resurrection: "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." We look forward to that time. --L.C.

HOW DO YOU SERVE GOD?

What would your answer be if asked that question? Modern Christianity has very effectively taught a "foreign mission" mentality. We tend to think, "I serve God by -- passing out tracts in the city, or by reaching out in some way to foreign lands, being or supporting "missionaries," or by boldly preaching God's Word on the street or wherever.

I've heard the Anabaptists would ask this question, "How do you serve God?" when meeting brethren they were unacquainted with. And their answers would be-- "I am a carpenter, a farmer, I make shoes, I am a mother." They, of course, were at odds with the majority of Christianity around them, even being persecuted unto death.

Compulsory church membership had brought about the "foreign mission" mentality. Those around them and in their families were already "Christians," regardless of their conduct. So to witness to the lost or to "reach out" they must go somewhere or do something else.

Too many Christians today are first of all farmers, factory workers, builders, and then they seek to add on Christianity. The Bible is interpreted around their occupation or situation. The job must be done first, and then they add to that some work for God.

Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." As Christians our first allegiance is to Christ and His Word, no matter what we are called to do. In fact, God's Word teaches us how to go about our daily duties. II Tim. 3:16: "All scripture is given. . . for instruction in righteousness." It tells us to be kind, to love your brother, your neighbor, your wife; be honest; prefer one another; submit to your brethren; submit to your husband; guide the house.

We know by the Word of God that most people are first serving themselves with their lives. But may it not be so with us. If we are asked how we serve God, may we be able to answer truly by giving our daily occupation.

Neil Martin

New Paris, Indiana

SERMON NOTES

Message: Pure Hearts

A special greeting of love from Jesus. Here in His Love is where we can have our needs met.

What picture do you have of God? Would you like to see God? Some times we would like to grab hold of something and feel it. (A friend once told me, "I need God with skin on.") "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Matt. 5:8)

So to see God, we must have pure hearts. What tools do I use to decide if my heart is pure? Do I use my own eyes? "There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness." (Pro. 30:12) We can't, any

one of us, claim pure hearts. But when I see my heart's condition, how do I respond? What is purity?

A man in the tropics was eating a piece of fruit. Someone gave him a magnifying glass that showed the fruit to be just crawling with worms. He threw away the glass and ate the fruit. What is purity? Man has made laws to aid purity. In spite of laws, man is still not pure. God's focus is on the heart, because a pure heart can see God.

John 14:9-12 As we see Jesus, we can be pure in heart and walk in His ways. We can understand. Too often we are a generation that is pure in our own eyes, and that is why we struggle with living separated lives. It's not that we don't have rules, guidelines, and good examples. It is because we don't see God. Purity is not a certain level. You don't just get everything all right and then it's okay. No! Moses saw God and recognized that God's people should be separated.

"I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee." (Job 42:5). What did Job do when he saw God? He said, "Wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes." (verse 6).

If you see God, you will do what He does and go where He is. He is a living God. Go to His Word. Pure means not mixed with any other matter. Purity is so important that God would have you pluck out an eye that can't be controlled.

There are visible results of being pure in heart. ". . . To visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27b). We can see God today and also in Heaven someday. God is just waiting for us to say, "I'll do it."

In closing, God's Spirit is holy. If that Spirit is controlling us, we will have pure hearts. It will affect our relationships. "See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." (I Pet. 1:22). A challenge has been given.

Sermon by Daniel Beery. Notes by Rosanna Royer.

THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN

A wise, godly woman is one who is always under discipline. The more perfectly she disciplines herself, the higher she drills her desires to be subject to God. She will try to improve herself by discipline. She is diligent to learn and to grow in all areas of her role as wife and mother. She is a virtuous woman, having strength of character.

The fear of God is her first concern. Her spirit is one of reverence. The life she lives is one of worship, adorations, and praise to her Beloved. She loves His precious word, and studies daily and diligently in His Word, to know God's perfect will. She finds contentment at home. She knows her heart and home are God's sanctuary. The joy and security of her home depends on the favor of her Heavenly Father. Integrity is her watchword. Strength and dignity are her characteristics. She has undivided loyalty.

A godly, holy, devoted, wise woman will live a dedicated life, and her actions will be in purity, sincerity, and holiness.

I Tim. 4:7: ". . .exercise thyself unto godliness." Train, exercise yourself in purity, piety, and holiness--you must desire it and work at it. ". . .Be ye holy; for I am holy." (I Peter 1:16). She is faithful in holding the faith of Christ. She lives by His principles and is guided by His Holy Spirit--His law of love. Her life is a life of prayer; she never neglects her quiet time with her Beloved. She knows that prayer is the key that unlocks the door of God's grace and power.

Compassion and kindness describe her way of life by her loving gentleness and encouragements. She reaches out to her friends with cheer. She is one who gives and gives with no thought of repayment. God's plan for her is one of serving. God's love flows through her to share her Beloved with others, because Jesus' blood made her pure, clean, and holy.

The virtuous woman has no time for idle talk, and she guards

her words. Words can be so vain and meaningless. She will discipline herself to not speak unkindly about others. She desires courtesy, politeness, and kindness. "The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious." (Eccl. 10:12b)

The virtuous woman chooses to be cheerful, even through all circumstances. Forgiveness is another one of her virtues Jesus gives. When wronged, she keeps on loving, even though it appears hard to love. Loving is the bond of perfection in the home since the peace of God rules in her heart and life. God flows through her life to others. She gives of herself, not selfishly, but to serve others. The young, virtuous wife is to serve her husband; older women are to serve and train young sisters. Serving from a heart of love is her delight.

The virtuous woman is a woman of a meek and quiet spirit. "Meekness"--submission, subdued, submitting; tamely, modest, humble, serene--gentle, mild, pure, self-controlled; merciful in action, yielded; pitiful, compassionate, gracious. Meekness is not weakness; it is the fruit of power, strength; virtue clothed with humility. Meekness does not have her own nature, but seeks righteousness. Meekness's disposition is to suffer. "To be . . . gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men." (Titus 3:2)

In His love,

Nancy Beidler, Myerstown, Pennsylvania

BIRTHS

STALTER - A son, Marshall Avery, born January 31 to Simon and Abigail Stalter of Nappanee, Indiana.

BEERY - A daughter, Alanna Cherish, born February 2 to Stephen and Kim Beery of Williamsport, Indiana.

JOHNSON - A daughter, Kate Elizabeth, born February 22 to William and Jewel Johnson of Nappanee, Indiana.

HARRIS - A son, Hans David, born February 25 to Michael and Wanda Harris of Casstown, Ohio.

A CHRISTIAN'S REQUEST

Jesus, Master, I would see
You in life, walking with me.
Clasp Your hand firm in mine,
Know Your peace, complete, divine.

Jesus, Master, I would feel
Your strength, serene and real;
Strong to move, meek to wait,
Should the hour be early or late.

Jesus, Master, I would sense
Your all-encompassing providence,
Trusting, that in every case,
You will give enabling grace.

Jesus, Master, I would be
A reflection of the One I see
In Bible pages pure and bright,
Mirroring Joy, Truth, and Light.

Jesus, Master, I would give
Every moment that I live;
Consecrate to You each day,
Each step of my earthly way.

Jesus, Master, this I pray:
Guide my steps, lest I stray;
In every thought and action true,
A living testament of You.

Ben Cover
Tuolumne, California

GRACE

Where the grace of God is missed, bitterness is born.

But where the grace of God is embraced, forgiveness flourishes.

The longer we walk in the garden, the more likely we are to smell like the flowers.

The more we immerse ourselves in grace, the more likely we are to give grace to others.

Selected by Shane Oberholzer

THE IMITATION OF CHRIST

Of Christ's Speaking Inwardly to the Faithful Soul

I will hearken what the Lord God speaketh in me.

Blessed is the soul which heareth the Lord speaking within her, and from His mouth receiveth the word of consolation. Blessed are the ears that catch the pulses of the Divine whisper, and give no heed to the whisperings of this world. Blessed indeed are those ears which listen not after the voice which is sounding without, but for the Truth teaching inwardly. Blessed are the eyes that are shut to outward things, but intent on things inward. Blessed are they that enter far into things within, and endeavour to prepare themselves more and more, by daily exercises, for the receiving of heavenly secrets. Blessed are they who are glad to have time to spare for God, and who shake off all worldly hindrances.

2. Consider these things, O my soul, and shut up the door of thy sensual desires, that thou mayest hear what the Lord thy God speaketh in thee.

Thus saith thy Beloved, I am thy salvation, thy Peace, and thy Life: keep thyself with Me, and thou shalt find peace. Let

go all transitory things, and seek the things eternal. What are all transitory objects but seductive things? and what can all creatures avail thee, if thou be forsaken by the Creator?

Renounce therefore all things, and labour to please thy Creator, and to be faithful unto Him, that so thou mayest be able to attain unto true blessedness.

Thomas A Kempis

NO DISAPPOINTMENT IN HEAVEN

There's no disappointment in heaven,
No weariness, sorrow or pain;
No hearts that are bleeding and broken,
No song with a minor refrain;
The clouds of our earthly horizon
Will never appear in the sky,
For all will be sunshine and gladness,
With never a sob nor a sigh.

We'll never pay rent for our mansion,
The taxes will never come due;
Our garments will never grow threadbare,
But always be fadeless and new;
We'll never be hungry nor thirsty,
Nor languish in poverty there,
For all the rich bounties of heaven
His sanctified children will share.

There'll never be crepe on the doorknob,
No funeral train in the sky;
No graves on the hillsides of glory,
For there we shall nevermore die;
The old will be young there forever,

Transformed in a moment of time;
Immortal we'll stand in His likeness,
The stars and the sun to outshine.

Chorus:

I'm bound for that beautiful city,
My Lord has prepared for His own;
Where all the redeemed of all ages
Sing "glory" around the white throne.
Sometimes I grow homesick for heaven,
And the glories I there shall behold;
What a joy that will be when my Saviour I see,
In that beautiful city of gold!

F. M. Lehman

Selected by Mervin and Gloria Hilty

FOR YOUTH

BIBLE QUIZ

Which New Testament person said this?:

1. "Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us." _____
2. "A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house." _____
3. "Let us also go, that we may die with him." _____
4. "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees. . . ." _____
5. "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me." _____

6. "It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead." _____

7. "Have thou nothing to do with that just man." _____

8. "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." _____

9. "Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee." _____

10. "Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years." _____

11. "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" _____

12. "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor." _____

Answers on page 16.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Behaving Wisely (I Samuel 18, 23, 24)

We all like to hear the Bible account of David slaying the Giant Goliath. We like to think of how young David was, and how big Goliath was. We like to think about all of Goliath's armour and David's little sling and five smooth stones. And we like to think of God's greatness in working through David to slay Goliath.

The very next chapter in the Bible tells more about David. Four times in this chapter, it says that David "behaved himself wisely." One of the times it says, "very wisely," and another time, "more wisely than all the servants of Saul."

Let's think about ways David behaved himself wisely, and see if we behave ourselves wisely. First of all, the Bible says, "And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely." He was very obedient to Saul. Are you obedient to your parents and teachers, doing whatever they tell you to do? It is wise to do so.

The Bible also says that Saul could tell that the Lord was with David. Therefore, we understand that it is the Lord that helps us behave wisely. Do you pray for God to help you to be good? I think David did.

When King Saul and David returned from fighting the Philistines, the women of the city went out to meet them, saying, "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." Do you think this attention and praise made David loud and boisterous, to get more attention? Do you show off and talk loudly when people talk to you and praise you a little? I do not think David did that. I think he probably quietly went about his daily duties in a humble way.

Several chapters later we find the account of Saul planning to come to Keilah to destroy the city with David in it. David asked God questions. "Will Saul come? Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand?" God answered that Saul would come, and the men of Keilah would deliver David into Saul's hands. (Remember Saul was very jealous of David and was trying to kill him.) Because David asked God, and God answered him, David and his men were able to leave Keilah and so escape being killed by Saul. Do you ask God if you should do certain things? God will not answer you quite like He answered David, but He can answer you through your parents, teachers, ministers, or other friends if you'll only listen for the answers.

Another time that David acted wisely was when David and his men were hiding in a cave. It must have been a big cave with rooms off to the sides of the main room, because King

Saul (while hunting for David to kill him) went into this cave to sleep for the night. David and his men stayed quietly in the sides of the cave, and Saul didn't even know they were there. During the night, David crept to King Saul's side and cut off part of Saul's robe. David's men thought it was such a good opportunity for David to kill Saul--to just get rid of him so David could go home and live with his wife instead of always running and hiding from Saul. But David "behaved himself wisely" and would not touch the Lord's anointed king. He respected Saul's God-given position as king. Do you respect those God has put in authority over you?

If you read of David's life and the psalms he wrote, you'll find many more times when he behaved himself wisely.

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

 Answers to Bible Quiz: 1. Philip 2. Jesus 3. Thomas 4. John the Baptist 5. Bartimaeus
 6. Herod 7. Pilate's wife 8. Peter 9. Peter 10. Zacharias 11. Nathanael 12. Zacchaeus

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THE PILGRIM

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APRIL, 2009

No. 4

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

HE IS RISEN

Come at dawn of early morning;
See, the stone is rolled away;
View the empty tomb and grave-clothes;
Death has yielded up its prey.
"He is risen, He is risen,"
Hear the shining angel say.

Walk with Him the road to Emmaus;
Hear Him open up the Word;
See Him break the bread and serve it;
Recognize Him as the Lord.
He is risen, He is risen,
Burning hearts this truth record.

Then go forth with power and serve Him;
Own Him as your God and King.
Worship, praise, and adoration
To your gracious Sovereign bring.
He is risen, He is risen,
With the blood-bought ransomed sing.

Guy Hootman

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JESUS SUFFERED FOR ME

Nearly twenty centuries ago, our Savior suffered on the cross six long hours in intense agony. Those who watched mocked Him. His few friends were powerless to help. It seemed nothing to those who passed by on the highway. Just another Roman crucifixion.

Jesus knew that our salvation and the hope of the world depended on His suffering and death. As He bore the sins of the world (in His own body on the tree), He cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" I can't explain all that this question implies, but Hebrews 5:7-9 tells us how valuable this event was in human history. It tells us also that the Father heard His cries.

Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.

I offer the following account of an accident I had and lessons I learned March 14, not to draw attention to myself, but to pass on some of those things God taught me. My bit of suffering is insignificant in comparison to Jesus' agony for us. I had no broken bones, shed very little blood, and didn't die like He did in my place.

Saturday, March 14, 2009

Repairing my line fence where a large oak had fallen across it, I experienced the mercy of God in a way I don't want to forget. A large limb of the tree (after I had sawed enough to repair the fence) rested in another tree with its lower end on a

fence post. As I tried to drive a staple in that post, the tree dropped down on me, pinning me to the ground with my left arm hopelessly clamped in the wire of the fence, now made tight with the weight of the tree. My right arm was free, but I could not reach my left arm to cut the wire with a side cutter which I had. My left shoulder was clamped between the tree and the post. I could shift it a little, and I tried to lift or shove the tree but couldn't. I was pressed down in a kneeling position with my face to the ground. I could rest my forehead on a wire almost on the ground or rest it on my hand with my hand on the wire. My left arm began to go numb as a wire cut off the circulation. I feared for my arm as it soon felt like lead and I could not move my fingers. I prayed for God to rescue me, to have Martha miss me and come to find me. I realized that would not be soon as I had often worked out on my place for hours. I called "Help!" many times but was not close to any people.

The following lessons came to me along with some comparisons to our spiritual experiences:

1. I should not have been working alone so far from help. In the church we need to work together and not be independent.

2. I realized I absolutely could not free myself. I needed help. When we are away from God we may not realize it, but we need help from God desperately.

3. I cried to God and He answered, but in His time. If He would have freed me immediately, I may not have learned the lessons. His timing is always right.

4. Some of my members were free; others were bound and hurting. So it is in the Church.

5. My face was down; I could not look up. This is the way when we are bound in the spirit.

6. My family was going about business without realizing my desperate need. We often do not realize how others are suffering.

7. I was bound three hours. I'm not aware of the significance, but it must have taken that long to teach me.

8. I needed my son and he finally came. Our rescue is by the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us.

9. With more than his natural strength, my son Peter lifted the tree and held it while he cut a wire that held me. At first he felt he could not hold it up long enough, but he said it became easier as God helped him. Afterward he could barely get the same piece off the ground.

10. My son suffered from straining too hard. It was by Jesus' suffering we are rescued. With His stripes we are healed.

11. As I cried for help, I realized no one could hear or help but God. When we cry in our soul's distress, often God is the only one who hears.

12. I realized I didn't have to be rescued. I didn't have to do the things I had planned. In every way our lives are in God's hands and His plans are better than ours.

13. There were after effects. I had scratches and bruises. In any conflict or trouble in the church or in our personal lives there are hurts and wounds that take time to heal.

14. There was intense, emotional relief as I was finally freed. We experience relief in the spirit when we are free and forgiven.

15. I had need for comfort--for warming up--even after I was no longer bound. We need to minister to one another for the hurting and returning to calm and healing.

16. I was carried on my son's "four wheeler" to the comfort of my home. God carries us when we cannot carry ourselves.

17. My arm was helpless, numb and unusable for hours afterward. Though we are freed from bondage, there are pains and weakness to deal with.

18. I made problems for others. Our failings always make others put out extra effort, sympathy, and help.

19. I was forced into a kneeling position--the best attitude when we are in any kind of trouble.

20. My problem was the right time. I had three days to heal and recover before the duties of a planned trip. God's timing is always good.

21. With all my wife's comfort and the help of my son, I learned to accept spiritual help too. We need our friends.

22. I learned again of God's mercy. I could have been greatly or fatally injured if the tree would have been six inches closer to drop on my head.

23. I was becoming desperate and running out of strength by the time of my rescue. People around us are giving in to despair. Lord, help us to be aware of the needs and hurting that we may be able to help by showing Your love.

24. My shock and uncontrollable trembling frightened my son and shows me that some can be in deep trouble, causing concern for their friends. God is able!

25. At first I could only crawl to the vehicle. After rescue, it can take time to return to useful service in the body of believers.

I can only praise God for my rescue. But most of all I praise Him for rescuing me by His blood from my sins and the destruction of hell. --L.C.

THE TEMPLE OF GOD

A temple is a structure where a Deity is worshipped or honored. The Jewish Temple of God built by King Solomon was the greatest and most grandiose of any man-made temple. The most sacred innermost place of the temple was a curtained off chamber called the "Holy of Holies." Here was located the Ark of the Covenant which contained the Law written by God on tables of stone. This was covered by the Mercy Seat. Even

with all the gold and wealth built into the Temple, it was of little significance without the presence of God's Glory.

As with most all of man's works, the Temple did not fill a permanent place in God's relationship with mankind. This temple was destroyed. Today the only visible evidence is archeological findings and the unearthed wall that formed part of the Temple site. God's will was, and still is, to dwell among His people. Does this require a temple, and what is this Temple?

The Apostle Paul tells the Corinthian Church: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Cor. 3:16) This can refer to the individual Christian and also to the collective Church. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit." (Eph. 2:20, 21, 22)

This oneness of God with His people is the most beautiful aspect of the Christian life. As the glory of the Lord filled the temple of old, so does the Holy Spirit fill the born-again believer. Just as the Ark of the Covenant contained the Law of God, so do our hearts have the laws of God written in them. The Ark was covered by the Mercy Seat, which with a blood sacrifice, was for the atonement of sins. Likewise the blood of Jesus by the mercy of God cleanses our hearts from sin. As there were important services for maintaining the ancient temple, so likewise it is important to maintain and properly use our bodies, both individually and collectively, "For ye are the Temple of God."

Joseph E. Wagner
Modesto, California

ESTEEM THEM VERY HIGHLY

The church congregation fills a central role in our homes. Here we find our friends. Here we receive nurture. Every established congregation has ordained leaders. The Scripture commands us to "esteem them very highly" (I Thess. 5:13).

God commands respect for His appointed leaders because they serve at God's call, not man's. Although our leaders are men of integrity, they are human and imperfect. Respect is due in spite of their shortcomings.

How can our homes fulfill the command to "esteem them very highly?"

Think right about church leaders. To esteem is to hold in high regard. They should be among the first we consult when seeking counsel. We should value their advice. Ordained leaders should receive the benefit of the doubt when questions arise.

Speak right about leaders. Parents lead the way in this. Children quickly detect attitudes toward the ministry. They should frequently hear favorable comments about the Sunday morning message. We should not highlight our ministers' public speaking mistakes.

Disrespectful talk must not be allowed in our homes. The Bible clearly teaches that to resist God's appointed leaders is to resist God. If disrespect for church leaders is permitted, likely children will struggle to respect their parents. On the other hand, parents who instill respect for church leaders are laying a framework for the children to properly esteem all other authorities and to honor the heavenly Father.

Be careful what we say to our ministers. Our ministry are open to brotherly counsel and concerns. However, when exercising the brotherly address with an ordained leader, we should speak sincerely and carefully. We must always

remember the command to "rebuke not an elder, but entreat him. . ." (I Tim. 5:1)

Words of encouragement mean much to an ordained person. "Thank you for your concern." "I appreciated the message," and "I am praying for you" are ways we can enter into their labor and strengthen their hands.

Seek ways to assist leaders. Our children should often hear us pray for our bishops, ministers, and deacons. Praying for the one who is preparing to preach develops the concept of the preacher as God's message bearer. We are to esteem them highly "for their work's sake." We should freely recognize the untiring labor and long hours they invest in discharging their calling. We should gladly support them financially and be ready to give our time to lighten their work.

Live out the admonition of our leaders. When church leaders give specific direction for Christian living, a ready and conscientious response should follow. When they give general admonition, we should take personal responsibility to apply the teaching to our lives so that we can grow spiritually.

To this point, we have omitted a very important part of the text verse-- "esteem them very highly *in love*." Love goes beyond respect for their office and extends to the warm, brotherly relationship that is needed for continued mutual confidence and respect with our church leaders.

* * * * *

To be a disciple of Christ is to be a learner, one who is willing to learn from his minister's teaching. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Are you a disciple or a dissenter?

By MEZ from *Home Horizons* by permission

Selected by Tim and Linda Royer

Your children are not only heirs to your possessions, they are also heirs to your values and character. Selected

IS IT NOTHING TO YOU?

Lamentations 1:12

It was only two pieces of dead wood, that cross on Calvary, and to human vision it was only the cry of a soul harrowed unto the despair of death that moaned over the rumbling darkness of the first Good Friday: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" And when that grim Golgotha tragedy was over and the nail-riven, wounded body was removed from the cross and laid in the sepulcher of the Arimathean aristocrat, to the short-sightedness of human vision it was at best the death of a defeated martyr. But viewed with the eyes of trusting faith, those two pieces of wood rise up as a universal monument. That tragic outpouring of the soul, crushed under the weight of an overpowering universe, directs a pointed question to every one of us; that grave bids us halt as the Lenten tragedy which we have now reviewed puts this decisive query before our hearts: "Is it nothing to you?"

Some one has left us a picture of the thorn-crowned Savior in the midst of our social whirl where men and women, in all stations and callings in life, young and old, elite and lowly, pass by the Man of Sorrows without even turning their heads to bestow a compassionate glance upon the innocent Sufferer--cold, calloused, and indifferent to the agony that wrings His soul. And how truly does this picture paint the madness of a world that beholds Christ and sneers: "It is nothing to us!" Crowding those places where the name of the Savior is scorned, where the love for sinful man that filled His divine heart to the overflowing is cast off as a loathsome burden, hurrying on from one carnal pleasure to the satisfaction of another sinful desire, the Christless world tramples God's mercy beneath ungrateful feet and finally brings upon itself that blood which will save

those who believe, but which just as certainly will curse those who reject it with eternal darkness and death.

As others answer this piteous cry, "Is it nothing to you?" with a shrug of the shoulders or a disdainful sneer, may God give us the grace, before the bells ring out our resurrection victory, to kneel in spirit at the spot where the Savior's life-blood was shed and declare: "'In the Cross of Christ I glory.' By the mercy of God it has become the anchor of my faith, the beacon of my hope, the pledge of my redemption. It is everything to me, this cross and its Crucified."

By Walter A. Maier in *Beautiful Saviour*, 1935
Forty Lenten Meditations

HOW MUCH WE OWE

Chosen not for good in me,
Wakened up from wrath to flee,
Hidden in the Saviour's side,
By the Spirit sanctified.
Teach me, Lord, on earth to show,
By my love how much I owe.

Selected by Norman Sauder
Columbia, Pennsylvania

THE RESURRECTION

They sealed the tomb of solid stone,
The cruel Roman power
Where Jesus' body lay alone
In that sad, darksome hour.

The true disciples in despair
Beheld where He was laid.
They turned away in grief and care,
And they were sore afraid.

Then Jesus came in mighty power;
His glory filled the grave
And took His body in that hour
Salvation to us gave.

The mighty Angel came alone,
Appeared in dazzling light,
And rolled away the solid stone,
A terrifying sight.

The Roman soldiers fell as dead,
The Roman power is done.
As Angels tread of victory led
To God, the Father's Son.

His true disciples hear them say,
"The Lord is risen indeed."
Their Saviour see in that same day
And in His presence feed.

Praise God to give us life anew
And raise us from the dead;
May all our names be there when true
The Book of Life is read.

J. I. Cover

March 17, 1958

We pilgrims should always be ready to go home.

THE CROSS WAS HIS OWN

They borrowed a bed to lay His head
When Christ the Lord came down;
They borrowed the ass in the mountain pass
For Him to ride in town;
But the crown that He wore and the cross that He bore
Were His own
The cross was His own.

He borrowed the bread when the crowd He fed
On the grassy mountain-side,
He borrowed the dish of broken fish
With which He satisfied.
But the crown that He wore and the cross that He bore
Were His own
The cross was His own.

He borrowed a ship in which to sit
To teach the multitude;
He borrowed a nest in which to rest
He had never a home so rude;
But the crown that He wore and the cross that He bore
Were His own
The cross was His own

He borrowed a room on His way to the tomb--
The Passover Lamb to eat;
They borrowed a cave for Him a grave
They borrowed a winding sheet.
But the crown that He wore and the cross that He bore
Were His own;
The cross was His own.

Author unknown

BAPTISMS

Hans Bayer Bradford, Ohio March 29

Jubal Bayer Bradford, Ohio March 29

Thank God for two more young brethren who decided to follow Jesus. May they be faithful in His Kingdom.

BIRTHS

WAGNER - A daughter, Kelsie Deann, born December 6, 2007, and received by adoption March 12, 2009, to Eddie and Deann Wagner of Modesto, California.

ROYER - A daughter, Janessa Paige, born March 17 to Joel and Leanne Royer of Dallas Center, Iowa.

ROYER - A son, Braxton Craig, born April 3 to Craig and Heather Royer of Goshen, Indiana.

MARRIAGE

SAVAGE--HILTY - Ian Savage and Charlesta Hilty were married March 28 at Palestine, Ohio.

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Bradford, Ohio 45308

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Andrew Albers: P.O. Box 176
Valley Springs, AR 72682
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FOR YOUTH
ANOTHER BIBLE QUIZ

Which Old Testament person said this?

Choose from: Ezekiel, Adam, Jehoshaphat, David, Moses, Daniel, Job, Isaiah, Joshua, Solomon, Ahab, Ruth, Micaiah, Joseph. One answer is used twice.

1. Is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides that we might enquire of him? _____
2. Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? _____
3. If thou return at all in peace, the Lord hath not spoken by me. _____
4. This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. _____
5. Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? _____
6. Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee; for whither thou goest, I will go. _____
7. Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? _____
8. Doth my father yet live? _____
9. Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him. _____
10. O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. _____
11. Let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. _____
12. For I know that my redeemer liveth. _____
13. Thou hast well spoken, I will see thy face again no more. _____
14. Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. _____
15. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. _____

(Answers on page 16)

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Sorry, but Wiser

Pop, pop, pop, went the peas into the bowl as the four Martin children worked steadily.

"This is fun!" remarked Joyce as she emptied her bowl into the dishpan and filled it again with peas.

"Yes," agreed David, giving Sparkie, the small fox terrier, a few pats on the head as he came bounding up the steps. In two leaps he had landed comfortably beside David on the old porch swing.

Mother smiled as she watched her helpers eagerly popping the peas into the bowls and throwing the hulls into the bushel basket.

The afternoon wore on. The games of "Guess Who" and "I See Something" had become boring. Even Sparkie was dozing under the bench. David's mind again went to the sand box under the shady maple tree. "Peas! Peas! Peas! I wish we didn't have any old peas," David complained.

"Me, too," agreed Joel who always thought what his older brother did.

"My fingers are so tired." Julie frowned as she stopped and brushed some hair from her hot, flushed face.

"Now, children," began Mother. "If we wouldn't have peas to hull, we wouldn't have any to eat next winter. I know you all like to eat peas. Just think of the children who do not have enough to eat. We should be thankful the Lord blesses us with food to eat and hands to work. There is a verse in the Bible that says: 'Do all things without murmurings and disputings.' Let's memorize this verse while we work. And there must be no more complaining."

The time went fast as the verse was repeated over and over again. Even three-year-old Joel could say it. "See, there is only one more basket to do," encouraged Mother.

Soon only the peas that each child had in his bowl remained.

"I hate to do peas," stated David, forgetting Mother's admonition about complaining.

"David, I'm sorry you disobeyed." Mother looked at David sadly. "The other children may go and play now. I want you to finish the peas by yourself."

David blinked back the tears as he watched the other children run away to play. How he wished he had remembered what Mother had said and had obeyed!

From *Wee Lambs* June 13, 1971

Answers for Bible quiz: 1. Jehoshaphat, I Kings 22:7. 2. Ahab I Kings 22:18. 3. Micaiah I Kings 22:28. 4. Adam Gen. 2:23. 5. David I Samuel 17:26. 6. Ruth Ruth 1:16. 7. Joshua Joshua 5:13. 8. Joseph Gen. 45:3. 9. Job Job 13:15. 10. Ezekiel Ezekiel 37:4,7. 11. Daniel Daniel 1:12. 12. Job Job 19:25. 13. Moses Exodus 10:29. 14. Isaiah Isaiah 53:4. 15. Solomon Proverbs 1:17.

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

MOTHER

Molding the lives that are under her care,
Over them drawing a blanket of prayer.
Though her extent of dominion is small,
Here she is queen and servant of all!
Ever perceiving the good in each one,
Rich is her love for each daughter and son.

THE BEST TRIBUTE

What is the best tribute to give to our parents
As thanks for the love and the care they have given?
*"Not roses or presents or praises, dear children,
But to follow our steps on the pathway to heaven."*

Mary E. Miller
From *My Home by the River*

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MOTHER

For natural loyalty and love, there is no greater example than that of a mother. Our country has set a day to honor mothers, but we should not need a special day to show the love and respect we owe our parents. Mothers are the physical originators of each one.

My earliest memories include my mother. She was always there, hard-working, thrifty, affectionate, and ready to dispel any troubles a young boy inevitably encounters. She knew her duty was to care for her children. Therefore she was nearly always at home, seldom trusting the watching over her children to anyone else. My mother and my home became something firm, constant, and reliable. Here we received discipline, love, and training for Christian life.

Memories are precious, but we must also acknowledge the value of those mothers serving now, our wives, sisters, daughters. Never has there been more need for devoted Christian mothers and fathers. They belong together. Their united service to their children makes the difference--whether or not they will serve the Lord Jesus Christ. You might think that statement is too strong. We know the parents are not the only influence for good in our time. But the training by parents makes the most difference.

Physically, the mother (and even more, the father) is larger and stronger. They have power to make the child obey. Natural love may hinder discipline that God says is needed to train the child. Proverbs 23:13,14: "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he will not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." This extreme discipline is difficult for a loving

mother (or father). But it is a command of God. If done lovingly, prayerfully, assuring the child of his value, it is effective.

The mother is wiser than the child. Mother's wisdom can develop true character, healthy habits, clear convictions, and godly goals in her child and show him a well worn path to the cross. It includes learning ways of peace with others, cooking and homemaking skills, true values, and thrift.

Mothers teach their children to talk, to sing, to listen, and to sympathize and care. Children have a right to the blessed things a mother can give.

Hannah, mother of the prophet Samuel, is a model for mothers. She prayed for a son. Before he was born, she dedicated him to God's service. After he was weaned she took him to "the house of God in Shiloh" to serve with Eli the priest.

Christian parents can do the same as they train their children in their homes. Many of us have been prayed for before our birth. Devoted parents pray for good companions for their children, and that they will be good companions. Let your children hear you say their names in prayer.

Through the agonies of childbirth, mothers earn their position. Apparently God intended for childbirth to be easier. But after the transgression in Eden, God said to Eve, "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."

I am thankful for our faithful mothers and for those who have not had the privilege of bearing children of their own, but help sacrificially by caring for children of others.

Thank you, Lord, for our mothers both past and present. When a child, my brother wrote for a school assignment: "Without her I would fare badly." --L.C.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

What is the meaning of this simple prayer? What is its importance? How often should we use it? Jesus said (Luke 11:2) "When ye pray say, Our Father which art in heaven. . ." Does He mean every time we pray? In Matthew 6:9 Jesus says, "After this manner therefore pray ye: (the Lord's prayer follows.) In recent months our attention has been brought again to a study of these words of Jesus. In 2005 we printed a series of articles by Peter Cover on each phrase of this prayer. We plan to use it again just like it was written before:

OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN

We all have earthly fathers. We all know who they are and what that means. When you speak of your father, you speak of someone that is older and more experienced than yourself. Fathers are precious to us, and in our circles they are held in high regard by their families. They make the ultimate decisions, and their word is final. They are told to rule their homes well and to treat their children with love.

I have been told that the way children view their earthly father is quite likely the way they also view their heavenly Father. Of course, that can change to a true vision as they draw closer to their heavenly Father. But what a responsibility fathers have to give their children a clear picture of their heavenly Father!

Fathers are to be the head of the home. They are termed the "bread winners."

Daddy can always fix it, and Daddy has a comforting lap. Daddy can be stern and fearful, but Daddy still loves. Daddy likes to see his children play nicely. Daddy likes to see his children get along together. Daddy likes to see his children

grow up, and Daddy likes to see his children make wise decisions.

Well, what do you think? Here we are starting this mighty prayer to "Our Father which art in heaven." He is a perfect Father. He loves His children infinitely more than an earthly father. He loves to see His children fed and clothed. He loves to see His children grow. He loves to see His children get along together and make wise choices. He is more than experienced. He is omniscient, and He does make the wisest decisions. His Word is the final word and there will be punishment if it is not followed.

I don't feel that our Father in heaven is looking down in stern, foreboding solemnity ready to crack the whip at the slightest disobedience. Some may see Him that way. It is obvious to me that Jesus did not. He had direct and complete access to the Father at all times, and so can we if we are covered by the blood of Jesus. Jesus never feared Him, but neither did He ever disobey Him. We can be so thankful for the first few words of the Lord's Prayer because we are tapping into the greatest source of love, peace, joy, wisdom, and power. We have addressed the Almighty God. Let us fall on our knees and worship Him.

Peter Cover
Tuolumne, California

WITH LOVE FROM MOTHER

I treasure an old birthday card in my collection. Beneath the fading flowers and sweet old-time sentiments she wrote, "With love, from Mother." Whenever I see that card, it takes me on a trip down memory lane, and I recall so many things that she did, with love.

There was a special sort of kindergarten with the teacher seated at the treadle sewing machine and the two students crowded around her, fascinated by the turning wheel. As her hands guided the fabric, she taught counting, ABC's, Do re mi's, and more: the Ten Commandments were learned by heart; the books of the New Testament, the names of the twelve disciples, Bible stories and the twenty-third Psalm. Did she know that when she hid those verses in my heart, they would never be forgotten?

She spent hours at the treadle sewing machine, making our clothes and mending. There were some times when I wanted a new dress so badly, and maybe I selfishly told her ". . . all the other girls. . ." I didn't think that she might be tired, or would have to stay up late to finish it, but in the morning when I awoke, a beautiful new dress was hanging in my room, "with love from Mother."

One day in school, the teacher had a message for me. My parents had been called to leave town for a few days. When I went home that afternoon, they were gone. The first thing I noticed was that Mother had quickly finished my navy dress. How did she find time? She had only a few short hours to pack? But she made my happiness her priority. Did I ever thank her? Or did I just assume that she would do it? It was a small miracle to me, and yet, miracles were no problem for her!

If she heard her girls gossiping about someone, she would say, "Girls, a dog that will carry a bone, will fetch a bone," meaning that if we talk about someone, we may expect that they will talk about us! Sometimes I didn't get along very well with my brother and sisters. We even had some arguments! A little later we might hear her singing quietly, "Angry words, oh let them never from the tongue unbridled slip; Let the heart's best impulse ever check them 'ere they soil the lip." My conscience was stirred when I heard her singing those words because it meant that she was disappointed in us.

In the growing up years she cared about our frustrations and disappointments as well as our happy times. When she sensed our trials, we knew it would turn out all right because she said it would. She quoted Bible verses, she prayed, and her prayers seemed so much more effective than mine.

Like countless mothers before her, she didn't think she was doing anything heroic, but when all the little acts of love and kindness are added together, the sum is the order and beauty of a home. And when there is an urgent need, mothers respond with love in action.

Mary Ann Martin
Dalton, Ohio

LEFT BEHIND

I have seen some interesting things happen at the appointed sailing hours of big passenger liners. Some passengers arrive at docks with a margin of only a few minutes to care for important items which should have been taken care of days before. And not a few miss the boat because of putting off these important items of business until the last minute. I have seen passengers rush up to the edge of the dock as their ship was pulling away; and what a look of distress came over their faces, as they saw that widening strip of water between them and the boat! Some, by paying a man with a motor boat a large sum of money, managed to overtake the liner and get on board.

During the evacuation of American and British citizens from the doomed city of Rangoon, when it fell to the Japanese, a tragic incident occurred. One of the last British passenger ships had been sent in to take away as many as it could carry of the remaining citizens. As in all such instances, the sailing hour was kept secret, but the passengers were told the hour when they must be aboard. After loading, the ship remained at the dock all night. One passenger the next morning thought of something

he wanted to attend to back in the city, and decided to return to take care of it, as he felt certain the ship would not leave early that day. It had been scheduled to sail hours before, and as it had not sailed, he thought it would not do so for some hours to come. He asked certain of the officers when the ship would sail, but could get no satisfactory answer. All they told him was to remain on board. Against the protest of his wife, and the advice of the ship's officers, he disembarked and returned to the city. He had not been gone thirty minutes before the great vessel slowly and silently pulled away from the shore. There was his wife with her three little children on board, leaving the doomed city, and her husband left behind. The poor woman arrived in Calcutta without money, without any friends, and without her companion. What became of him, we do not know. He didn't intend to be left behind. He just took a chance.

How many will be left behind when Jesus comes, not intentionally, but through taking chances. Believe me, friend, it doesn't pay to take chances in this matter. The man or woman who is left behind when Jesus comes, will be left to eternal doom. There is one, and only one, vessel to take you to heaven; and if you miss that, you have missed it all.

Those living in the day of Noah took a chance. First they argued that a flood could not come as, up to that time, it had not rained (Genesis 2:6). A flood, they argued, was against nature. Although Noah's message was from God, they doubted. Although Noah built according to God's specifications, they still doubted. Jesus said that those antediluvians "knew not until the flood came." They could have known, but they chose not to know. But their choosing not to know did not keep back the Deluge. It came as a great destructive catastrophe to all those who had taken a chance. Not one escaped. As the waters rose they climbed to the highest hills, and no doubt many climbed the highest trees on the highest mountains, and were eventually engulfed in the rising tide.

Won't you receive the warning Jesus spoke with His own lips, the warning that His Spirit is striving to impress upon us today? Said He, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." (Luke 17:26). Let that warn you, He said. But will men today be warned by what had happened in the past? Let us see.

In the third chapter of II Peter, the apostle gives us something to think about. "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. For this they are willingly ignorant of, that by the word (command) of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished; but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word (command) are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

The greatest news in the world today is the news that Jesus our Saviour gave to His disciples to preach into all the world to every creature: that this Jesus whom ye have crucified, is risen, and was taken up into heaven, and is coming again to judge the world and rescue His saints out of it. Increased knowledge, world travel, people running to and fro, broken homes and family strife; unnatural sex, disregard for marriage, fornication, adultery; violence; rebellion against God, government, teachers, employers, husbands, parents; despisers of good people, worshipers of pleasure instead of God: all these predictions of Jesus Himself about these last days are enough to turn a believing heart away from sin to the Crucified One whose blood cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

H. H. Mattison, Pilgrim Tract Society
From *Scrapbook of Ideas* #2 by Vera Overholt

THE IMITATION OF CHRIST

Of a mean conceit of ourselves in the sight of God

I will speak unto my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes. (Gen. 18:27). If I esteem myself to be any thing more, behold, Thou standest against me, and my iniquities bear true witness, and I cannot contradict it. But if I abase myself, and reduce myself to nothing, and shrink from all self-esteem, and grind myself to (what I am) dust, Thy grace will be favorable to me, and Thy light near unto my heart; and all self-esteem, how little soever, shall be swallowed up in the valley of my nothingness, and perish for ever.

There Thou shewest Thyself unto me, what I am, what I have been, and whither I am come; for I am nothing, and I knew it not. If I be left to myself, behold! I am nothing and altogether weakness; but if Thou for an instant look upon me, I am forthwith made strong, and am filled with new joy. And a great marvel it is, that I am so suddenly lifted up, and so graciously embraced by Thee, who of mine own weight am always sinking to the depths.

This is the work of Thy love, freely preventing me, and relieving me in so many necessities, guarding me also from pressing dangers, and snatching me (as I may truly say) from evils out of number. For indeed by loving myself amiss, I lost myself; and by seeking Thee alone, and purely loving Thee, I have found both myself and Thee; and by that love have more deeply reduced myself to nothing. Because Thou, O sweetest Lord, dealest with me above all desert, and above all that I dare hope for or ask.

2. Blessed be Thou, my God: for although I be unworthy of any benefits, yet Thy noble bounty and infinite goodness never ceaseth to do good even to the ungrateful, and to those who are turned away far from Thee.

Turn Thou us unto Thee, that we may be thankful, humble, and devout; for Thou art our salvation, our courage, and our strength.

Thomas A Kempis

BAPTISM

Joseph Tate Mishawaka, Indiana April 12
May God direct this young brother as he serves in the
Kingdom of Jesus Christ. May he be faithful in the Church.

BIRTHS

WAGNER - A daughter, Vanessa Nicole, born January 14 to
David and Mona Wagner of New Era, Michigan.

ROYER - A daughter, Joelle Brooke, born April 14 to Nathan
and Carrie Royer of Goshen, Indiana.

ROYER - A daughter, Jasmine Willow, born April 15 to Caleb
and Tammy Royer of Elkhart, Indiana.

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FOR YOUTH Of Puzzles

There is a puzzle on the small table in a corner of my living room. Nearly every time I walk past, it seems to beckon me. Not only is it hard to stay away; it is even harder to get away once I start working at it. And I did not think I liked puzzles!

It has probably been ten or fifteen years since I last started and finished a puzzle of my own. Somehow, I thought I had outgrown that hobby; besides, I didn't have time. There was so much necessary work in a day. I guess I sort of got the feeling puzzles were useless.

So why is there a puzzle on my table now? It started as an exception. These lovely Thomas Kincaid puzzles were selling for \$4.00 at the "Dented Can," much less expensive than most stores sell them. I'm rather partial to Thomas Kincaid's fine artwork, and I needed a gift for a family member who happens to be fond of puzzles. It seemed the sensible thing to do. But I did wonder if I, the "nonpuzzler," stood a chance of finishing this gift on time.

That was several weeks ago. Sometime since then my perspective changed. That puzzle corner became a delight as I spent hours searching and fitting, finding out I was wrong, and trying again. The puzzle is all blue and white, in varying shades, and often the shape is the only factor to indicate what belongs where. There is a certain thrill as the perfect place for each small piece is discovered, and little by little the scene in its quiet loveliness develops under my hands.

One evening as I lingered a few minutes at the puzzle before heading to bed, and settled one more tiny bit into place, that now-familiar thrill shot through me, followed by a sudden thought:

"I will rejoice over you. I will joy over you with singing. I know the plans that I have for you, saith the Lord. . . I will lay thy stones with fair colors. . ."

If I care so much about one little piece of puzzle, how much infinitely greater must be the Master's care for each small, puzzling detail of our lives?

There have been times when I felt shattered beyond repair--certainly did not feel like an object of joy and beauty. Some of those times, as dearly cherished hopes and plans lay at my feet seemingly crushed into dust, I really thought my life was ruined, that I would never be the same again.

It is true enough: I won't be the same again. It came as something of a shock recently, to realize that some of the *richest delights* of life as I know it now, have come about, *not in spite of*, but directly because of the hardest trials and heaviest griefs I've faced.

When I stood weeping over my "ruined picture," my Heavenly Father, Master of puzzles, was already seeing clearly the wonderful new picture He would create from my shards. He knew all along where each fragment and splinter should be placed to produce something completely new and infinitely better than the tattered scrap I had been clinging to.

My puzzle is not finished yet. It is coming together little by little with quiet, patient, careful work. When the thrill runs through me as another piece settles into its proper place, I think of the other puzzle--God's puzzle.

It is not completed yet, either. He is still working on it patiently, carefully, with great wisdom and a keen eye to perfection and beauty, setting each piece into place unerringly.

Sometimes I try twenty pieces before I find the correct fit. Not so with God. He works steadily forward with never a mistake.

If my heart thrills to one piece of this small picture set in place, what must be the joy in the heart of the Master as He

builds the puzzle of each life for us, tenderly setting every piece into perfect place? As He places the final link in the chain of understanding for a truth we've struggled to grasp, as He meets the need which had overwhelmed and caused us fear, as He gives us clear direction in the sudden, unexpected decisions that arise from day to day--what must be the delight of His love over His children as they let Him have their shards to create His glory?

I wonder what His Master Puzzle looks like? I've asked Him sometimes, and He tells me, "What I do thou knowest not now, but hereafter--"

My delight in this little puzzle is insignificant in comparison to the joy my Father declares He finds in His children. My heart is full as I work over my puzzle and hear again that still, small whisper in my heart, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love. I have called thee by name. Thou art precious in my sight. Thou art mine."

I feel humbled, chastened, freed, and so loved. His love is so huge, yet so intimately tender that it takes my breath away. I thank Him for this tangible illustration and reminder of His care.

Once again I find myself standing over a mass of pieces, with a lump in my throat. I would not stop the tears of joy that spring up unbidden. This is only the beginning. "The half has never yet been told!" You mean I feared and cringed from this? I would have refused it if I could--God knows.

Susanna K. Tate
Wakarusa, Indiana

Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me;
Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Nancy and Rex

"Tell us a story, Grandma. Tell us about Rex," said Davy as he and Nancy both tried to climb onto Grandma's lap. Grandma had told the story over and over again, but Davy and Nancy never tired of hearing it, and Grandma loved to tell it.

"I was just four years old, when it happened," said Grandma, "just as old as you are now, Davy. Rex and I had been the best of pals. Rex was our big Newfoundland dog."

"My father had made Rex understand that it was his duty to look after me. He was to follow me and see that I did not get into any place of danger."

"But one day I wandered off to the river. Some boys had left a raft there. It was partly on the shore and partly on the water. Rex tried to stop me from getting on to the raft. He barked and placed himself in front of me. But I wanted my own way. I had a sick in my hand. Rex grabbed my dress and tried to pull me back with his teeth. But naughty me! I jumped on the raft. Rex jumped on too. But he was heavy and his weight pushed the raft away from the river bank. Rex and I started floating down the river and were carried along by the current."

"And you were terribly afraid, weren't you, Grandma?" asked Davy.

"Indeed I was," exclaimed Grandma. "I snuggled close to Rex who stood faithfully on guard. He barked loudly and tried to make someone hear him and come to our rescue. But no one seemed to hear. We sailed around the bend in the river."

"Did you cry for your mama?" asked Nancy.

"Yes, my dear, I cried hard. I didn't know if I would ever find my daddy and mommie again! I was being carried farther away from home every minute. Then I did something that was very foolish! But it turned out for the best. I stood up on the raft and jumped into the river. Down I went under the water,

but faithful Rex was right beside me. As I came to the top of the water, Rex grabbed my clothes with his strong teeth and with swift strokes started to swim to shore.

"Both Rex and I were terribly wet, and all covered with water weeds. I was so afraid. I could hardly stand up. But Rex kept on barking wildly for help. Soon Father came to see what was wrong. When he saw me he began to scold Rex, but I told my daddy all that had happened.

"Wanting my own way got me into a lot of trouble. After that I trusted Rex and obeyed him when he tried to stop me from doing something wrong."

The Bible says everyone has turned to his own way. Our own way always brings us into danger, sin, and sorrow. When Grandmother was a little girl, she had Rex to keep an eye on her. But boys and girls have Someone far greater who cares and loves and looks after them. Yes, it is the Lord Jesus. He is the Good Shepherd of the sheep. He gave His life for His sheep. He wants them to walk in His way. His way is a path of happiness and peace.

Selected from *Childhood Days*
and *The Church Correspondent*

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

BROKENNESS

Exquisite, beautifully carved;
The alabaster box.
A rich perfume, costly and rare
Within its depth it locks.

A woman bears it carefully,
Until at Jesus' feet,
She breaks it, and the air is filled
With scent so rich and sweet.

Broken and useless now it seems.
Ah! no; consider, see
For this intent it was designed;
A poignant mystery.

Miriam J. (Sauder) Brechbill
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

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THISTLES AND SIN

Why did God make thistles? Look for the answer in Genesis 3:17,18. Thistles have sharp thorns down to the ground. They are well rooted and many seeded. They remind me of sins, and I offer thoughts here to compare pulling thistles to wrenching sins out of our lives. There are similarities, but also important differences. To conquer sin it required the sacrifice of God's only Son. We cannot do it alone like we can go out and pull thistles. But the need to be rid of sins is like the problem of thistles in a field. They will spread and crowd out what we would encourage. There is no good fruit from sin or thistles.

I set out to rid my property of thistles. I found they were established in a dozen places, much more than I had known. Before they go to seed, they can be pulled and burned. (You farmers probably are thinking, "Why not use a little Roundup?") I took a bag and leather gloves and a hoe for those that broke off. I found it would have been simpler if I had made the resolve years before.

As I began, it seemed easy--just pull them out of the damp soil and stuff them into the bag! But there are so many! Some are small--hard to get the root. And even small ones will grow.

Thistles take space that could be for grass or something even more fruitful. Sins are like that. They take time, fill our thoughts, and crowd out good activities.

To pull a thistle you must grip it near the root or it may break off. The root will sprout shoots that bear seed. It reminds one of the root of bitterness of Hebrews 12:15: "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby

many be defiled." Bitterness in our hearts can infect others. It doesn't always show. It stays hidden until it sprouts growth that has thorns and seeds. It is hostile to good relationships. Let God identify and pull out this root.

It takes gloves to pull thistles. Cloth gloves will not do. Leather gloves keep thorns from penetrating. As we know, leather gloves require the death of a creature that lived and had blood. Has this any parallel in rooting out sin in our lives?

The object in pulling thistles is to get them before they go to seed. The seeds are tiny; the wind can carry them to new areas. Let God rid us of sins before they spread.

Some things that might not be sin to us can affect a weak brother. Paul writes of our responsibility in I Cor. 8:8-13. In his day food offered to idols was really not defiling in itself, but one who thought it wrong should not "be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols."

What comprises idols in our day? A little wine? TV? Internet? Videos? These could be used for good, you say. But much of their use--in fact, their purpose and support--compares to an idol of Paul's era. John, for all time, writes "Little children, keep yourselves from idols."

On the positive side, once a thistle is pulled, the one next to it is easier due to the ground loosened by removing the first. The song says, "Each victory will help us, some other to win." Be assured that God is on our side in our desire to overcome sin in our lives. To Him belong the leather gloves, the hoe, and the resolve to begin and continue this work.

All glory to Jesus, the One who bore our sins in His own body on the tree. -L.C.

A good teacher is one who can understand those who are not good at explaining, and explain to those who are not very good at understanding.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

CHRIST BRINGS FREEDOM

After several prison visits and a tour through the Elkhart County Jail, the words of Paul in Romans 8 stand out to me.

The warden at Elkhart told our group that they have 70% recidivism--70% of these prisoners relapse into criminal behavior after they finish a prison term. It's a dismal picture of humanity without God.

Romans 8:

Verse 1. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

The place is full of people who have been condemned. Their "walking after the flesh" has caught up with them.

2. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

3. "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh."

We ourselves are powerless to live out God's laws. Walls, doors, and fences confine prison inmates because they couldn't live out our country's laws on their own.

4. "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

5. "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."

6. "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

The prison system is designed to keep those with carnal minds who are spiritually dead, in captivity. Handcuffs might shackle a prisoner's hands, but will do nothing to change what's going through his mind. Satan could be busy inside him. While he's forced to give up outwardly, his thoughts could still be obsessed

with revenge. Someone like this illustrates the carnal death referred to in verse 6. They are dead to anything loving.

Tragically, gang jealousies and hatred lead to physical death for some in prison. Those with a life sentence or years of prison time to serve feel like they have nothing to live for. Life and peace in Jesus are beyond their comprehension.

14. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

15. "For we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but we have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

My visits have made me thankful in a new way for freedom. Thank God that we have police and other officials who are willing to help keep our country safe. Paul gives us clear teaching in Romans 13 to respect them for the job they do.

The freedom Christ gives us to follow Him is an even greater gift. We don't have to live with the spirit of bondage and fear. God will receive us as His children if we let Him be our Father.

Jesse Martin, Wakarusa, Indiana

DO YOU REALLY CARE?

I care for a woman who is traveling into the world of Alzheimer's. Some moments she is clear, and the next moment she is not. One day I heard her in her bedroom and when I went to check on her, she was using her walker seat as a bathroom stool. I said, "Oh, we need to go to the bathroom." She looked me in the eye and said, "I did not do it, you did." For the next several hours she was very upset. When she had to look at me, she would keep saying, "I *did not* do it, you did." She would be in her chair thinking and say, "What are we going to do about it?" I would reassure her over and over that it was okay and I took care of everything. By afternoon she was still

upset and said, "What are we going to do?" I got a chair and sat down beside her and she looked at me with real sorrow in her eyes and said, "I'm so sorry. What are we going to do?" (She couldn't say what she was sorry for. She just knew in her heart something was wrong.)

I put my arm around her and gave her a hug and a kiss. I told her I loved her and forgave her and everything was taken care of. She got a peaceful, relaxed look on her face; her heart was at peace.

Her mind is too cloudy to know what she is doing often times, but she still knew enough that she couldn't be at peace with herself. The thing that really touched my heart was that once I told her I loved her and forgave her, she wanted me to be sitting right beside her all the rest of the day. She even got out of her chair and came to the couch to sit by me.

I think of this lesson and wonder how it is with all of us who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ. When we do wrong, do we want to blame the other person?

When someone says they did wrong and are sorry, do we assure them that we love them and forgive them? Can they feel our love so much that they want to be close to us so they can keep feeling that love? Do we assure them by our actions before they can admit they were wrong that we do care for them and it is safe to say they were wrong? Only if they feel safe in our love and can see in our actions what our response will be, can we make it easy for them to say, "I was wrong; I'm sorry."

To all of you who claim to be born again, I ask you to search your own hearts and see what is really there. We all need our hearts renewed from time to time. We pray that each one can get past their head (intellectual level) to their hearts to know what is really there.

Praying for each one,
Nancy Oyler, Goshen, Indiana

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

The dictionary says "hallow" means "to make or set apart as holy; sanctify, consecrate."

We have addressed our Father in heaven. Now we are calling Him holy. This brings a beautiful picture in my mind of how His name is hallowed in heaven. Revelation 4 describes the very throne of God, our Father. The eighth verse says, "And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him and they were full of eyes within and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty which was, and is, and is to come." The following verses tell of the twenty-four elders falling down before Him, worshipping Him and casting their crowns before His throne. Verse 11 ends the chapter with, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

To search the depths of the holiness of God is a lifetime work. He is incomprehensibly holy. "At His name our hearts do leap." He is Lord of all. Human minds cannot express His complete holiness. Only God, the One we are worshipping, can give us ability to set Him apart in our lives.

He is worthy of our worship and praise. As we pray to Him, we are drawn to think of Him in His holiness. Think of His divine power and authority. Think about His majestic throne and the way He rules the earth and sky. Think back through the years and see His master plan in each life. Think of the future and how we shall see Him in all His splendor. Beloved, our minds cannot fathom the depth and height and breadth of the Father's holiness.

A picture comes to my mind of one way we hallow His name here on earth. In my mind's eye I see all my dear brethren and sisters sitting around the communion table. The closing prayer has been prayed and announcements for future meetings

have been stated. I think we all know the feeling of true joy as we unite our voices in song to end that sacred meeting. Our hearts are full of praise and zeal to live our lives in complete worship to our Holy God.

Our hearts reach out to a Holy God. We as mortals know how unholy we are without the blood of Jesus cleansing us from sin. God sees our weak endeavors to worship Him, and I believe He is satisfied when we come to Him in brokenness to hallow His name. (Reprinted from June, July, 2005.)

Peter Cover, Tuolumne, California

ARTICLES ON CHURCH ETIQUETTE

1. **Come.** Never miss church unless it is absolutely necessary.

2. **Come early.** Rushing into church the last minute is not conducive to true worship.

3. **Come with your whole family.** "The church service is not a convention that a family should merely send a delegate."

4. **Take a place toward the front of the church.** Leave the rear seats for those who may come late, and for the backsliders, and mothers with children. Please!

5. **Be devout.** The church is not a theater or a place of amusement. You come to worship God, not to whisper, lounge or sleep. God's house deserves our utmost reverence.

6. **Be thoughtful of others.** Never make a haystack of yourself at the end of the row and expect others to crawl over you to reach a seat.

7. **Help strangers** to find and follow the service. If they have no book, share yours with them. Sing! Join in the worship! Don't just sit.!

8. **Always remember that strangers are the guests** of the church members. Treat them with the same courtesy as you would if they should visit in your own home.

9. **Never rush for the door** after the benediction as though the church were on fire. Speak and be spoken to. Be congenial.

10. **Never stay away from church** because the church is not perfect. How lonesome you would feel in a perfect church.

11. **Remember at all times** that you are in the House where we worship God. --Selected

IMITATION OF CHRIST

Of the Remembrance of God's Manifold Benefits

Open, O Lord, my heart in Thy law, and teach me to walk in Thy commandments.

Grant me to understand Thy will, and with great reverence and diligent consideration to remember Thy benefits, as well in general as in particular, that henceforward I may be able worthily to give Thee thanks.

But I know and confess that I am not able, even in the least matter, to give Thee due thanks for the favors which Thou bestowest upon me. I am less than the least of all Thy benefits: and when I consider Thy noble bounty, the greatness thereof maketh my spirit to faint.

2. All that we have in our soul and body, and whatsoever we possess outwardly or inwardly, naturally or supernaturally, are Thy benefits, and do speak Thee bountiful, merciful, and good, from whom we have received all good things.

Although one have received more, another less, all notwithstanding are Thine, and without Thee even the least blessing cannot be had.

He that hath received the greatest cannot glory of his own desert nor extol himself above others, nor insult over the lesser.

For he is the greatest and the best who ascribeth least unto himself, and who in rendering thanks is the most humble and most devout.

And he that esteemeth himself viler than all men, and judgeth himself most unworthy, is fittest to receive greater blessings.

3. But he that hath received fewer, ought not to be out of heart, nor to take it grievously, nor to envy them that are enriched with greater store; but rather to turn his mind to Thee, and highly to praise Thy goodness, for that Thou bestowest Thy gifts so bountifully, so freely, and so willingly, without respect of persons.

All things proceed from Thee, and therefore in all things Thou art to be praised.

Thou knowest what is fit to be given to every one. And why this man hath less and that man more, it is not for us to judge, but for Thee who dost exactly know what is meet for every one.

4. Wherefore, O Lord God, I even esteem it a great mercy, not to have much of that which outwardly and in the opinion of men seems worthy of glory and applause.

He who considereth the poverty and unworthiness of his own person, should be so far from conceiving grief or sadness, or from being cast down thereat, that he rather should take great comfort and be glad.

For Thou, O God, hast chosen the poor and humble and the despised of this world for Thyself, to be Thy familiar friends and servants.

Witnesses are Thine apostles themselves, whom Thou hast made princes over all the earth.

And yet they lived in the world without complaint, so humble and simple, without all malice and deceit, that they even rejoiced to suffer reproach for Thy name; and what the world abhorreth, they embraced with great affection.

5. When therefore a man loveth Thee and acknowledgeth Thy benefits, nothing ought so to rejoice him as Thy will toward him, and the good pleasure of Thine eternal appointment.

And herewith he ought to be so contented and comforted that he would as willingly be the least, as another would wish to be the greatest.

He would too be as peaceable and contented in the last place as in the first; as willing to be a despised castaway, of no name or character, as to be preferred in honor before others, and to be greater in the world than they.

For Thy will and the love of Thy glory ought to be preferred before all things, and to comfort him more, and to please him better than all the benefits which either he hath received or may receive.

Thomas A Kempis

NOTES OF THANKS

We would like to thank each one that helped us in the last couple months of packing, moving, adjusting, and now building a new barn. The prayers, words of encouragement, food, time, labor, and support are much appreciated.

May God bless you all.

Matthew, Sarah and family
Andrew, Marla and family

We would like to thank each of you brothers and sisters for all of the prayers and support and the financial help during Ryan's recent illness. We praise God for the healing! May the Lord bless all of you for your love and kindness.

Ryan and Rosanna and Jamaica Flora

BAPTISMS

Michelle Guthrey	Tuolumne, California	June 19
Melody Royer	Wakarusa, Indiana	June 26
Judith Martin	Wakarusa, Indiana	June 26
Evan Martin	Wakarusa, Indiana	June 26

May these dear young people be faithful to the Lord Jesus and useful in His Kingdom.

BIRTHS

ROYER - A daughter, April Erin, born December 2, 2008, and received by adoption April 29, 2009, to Reuben and Abigail Royer of Nappanee, Indiana.

GOLDING - A daughter, Janae Leann, born May 31 to Jeff and Deanna Golding of Nappanee, Indiana.

MOSER - Kezia Jo, born June 18 to Kendall and Lorene Moser of Nappanee, Indiana.

CONING - Matthew Alex, born June 24 to Thad and Suzanne Coning of Goshen, Indiana.

ROYER - A daughter, Payton Michelle, born July 6 to Brad and Laura Royer of Nappanee, Indiana.

COVER - A daughter, Kayla Nicole, born July 6 to Sam and Lois Cover of Tuolumne, California.

Other books were given for our information; the Bible was given for our transformation. --Selected

MARRIAGES

ROYER-STALTER Marcus Royer and Becky Stalter were married June 20, 2009, at Wakarusa, Indiana.

New address: 25623 CR 44

Nappanee, IN 46550-9335

Marcus's cell: (574) 361-4270

Diana's cell: (574) 312-4121

BROWN-ORDWAY Randy Brown and Laura Ordway were married July 4, 2009 at Tahoe City, California.

New address: P.O. Box 393

Enfield, New Hampshire 03748

ADDRESS CHANGES

Andrew Martin: 736 Godfrey Rd.
Hollandsburg, OH 45332
(937) 997-2125

Matthew Martin: 717 Weavers - Ft. Jefferson Rd.
New Madison, Ohio 45346
(937) 997-4586

Daniel Cover: 19293 Cherokee Rd.
Tuolumne, CA 95379-9605

Reuben Royer's phone: (574) 307-0378

Today's Christian is surrounded by compromise in politics, science, law, medicine, and even theology. Knowing and defending God's truth has never been more vital.

From the ICR *Acts & Facts*

FOR YOUTH

Bible Quiz

Which New Testament person said this?

1. Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? _____ John 12:5
2. Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. _____
Acts 7:60
3. Understandest thou what thou readest? _____
Acts 8:30
4. Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. _____ John 4:15
5. Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. _____
Matthew 8:2
6. And now also the axe is laid to the root of the trees.
_____ Matthew 3:10
7. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. _____
Revelation 1:10
8. Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. _____
Acts 26:28
9. I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. _____
Acts 26:19
10. Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. _____
Acts 12:8
11. Of a truth I perceive that God is not respecter of persons.
_____ Acts 10:34
12. Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing into heaven?
_____ Acts 1:11
13. Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.
_____ Luke 8:50
14. Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way. _____ John 14:5
15. Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.
_____ John 14:5

16. Let us also go, that we may die with him. _____

John 11:16

17. I find no fault in this man. _____ Luke 23:4

18. Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do
always resist the Holy Ghost. _____ Acts 7:51

CHILDREN'S PAGE

A Lesson from a Blind Girl

The door of my store opened; a little girl came in holding her mother's hand. She looked like any other five or six year old girl except for one thing. In her other hand she carried a long white stick which she moved back and forth in front of her as she walked. She was blind.

Soon her mother let go of her hand and began to shop for fabric. The little girl walked around by herself, but she didn't run into anything because she always felt ahead with the stick. Before long she discovered the toy corner. I don't know how she knew the toys were in there. Perhaps she felt them between the pickets of the fence. She asked if someone would help her open the gate, so her mother went and opened it. The little girl walked in, put down her stick, and began to play. The toys were scattered around on the floor, but she was careful and didn't stumble over them. Then her mother said, "There's a big basket over in the corner. Why don't you pick up the toys and put them in it?"

What do you think the little girl said? Do you think she whined and fussed and said it was too hard because she couldn't see the toys or the basket? No, she didn't. She said, "Okay!" very cheerfully and began to pick them up. She felt each one until she knew what it was, then put it into the basket.

The next time you feel like complaining when your mother asks you to pick up the toys, just think how much easier it is than if you were blind, and do it cheerfully.

MY EYES

A great gray elephant,
 A little yellow bee;
 A tiny purple violet,
 A tall green tree;
 A red and white sailboat
 On a blue sea;
 All these thing You gave to me
 When You made my eyes to see.
 Thank You, God! -Author unknown

Jean Martin, Goshen, Indiana
 Reprinted from *The Pilgrim*, Feb, 1997

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

THE TEACHER

Lord, who am I to teach the way
To little children day by day,
So prone myself to go astray?

I teach them knowledge, but I know
How faint the flicker and how low
The candles of my knowledge glow.

I teach them power to will and do
But only now to learn anew
My own great weakness through and through.

I teach them love for all mankind
And all God's creatures, but I find
My love comes lagging far behind.

Lord, if their guide I still must be,
Oh, let the little children see
Their teacher leaning hard on Thee.

Leslie Pickney Hill

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EXPERIENCE IN HAITI, 2009

*"Jesus, Jesus, Jesus; sweetest name I know;
Fills my every longing; keeps me singing as I go."*

We saw devotion in the eyes of the native pastors and teachers of Haiti as they sang enthusiastically of the Savior. They sing many of our familiar tunes but in their own Creole language, of course. One favorite speaks of "How much I owe eternal love." (*If they owe much, we owe much more!*) Another, "We cannot lose our hope."

We came home "rich" after being in Haiti again, serving at a semi-annual seminar at the Mennonite Gospel Mission to Haiti. It's difficult to describe the difference between our affluence and Haitian poverty. You need to see it to believe it.

Their poverty is beyond lack of money. With literacy being 48% (some say functional literacy may be as low as 20%) and unemployment (loitering) 50-70%, their condition is desparate. To manage, to work, to save and plan for the future: these are all areas of need for many Haitians.

Their country is tropical with exotic, beautiful trees and undergrowth -- where they haven't harvested for charcoal. Avocados and mangos were in season. If you smile and wave to Haitians, they usually smile warmly and wave spontaneously.

Our experience there has been short and temporary, but gratifying. We were privileged to help in the seminar for 150 teachers and church leaders crowded onto hard benches for the hot, muggy August sessions. We wished we could help them more.

They all stayed at the mission where they slept on floors (with one blanket) and were fed three good meals (rice and beans) a day for the five days of the seminar.

Three of us from the States taught through interpreters. One native, Pastor Thomas, spoke in his common Creole language. Services for the community were held the first four evenings. A truck packed with Haitians standing in the bed, brought at least sixty each evening. Possibly 200 more walked. Special groups sang for each service. One choir of thirty women dressed in white with Mennonite coverings supplied by the mission, sang two evenings. Most of the women were covered in some fashion. Two talented men's groups blessed us in song. We heard that three responded to the evening messages.

Lester Weiler and Anthony Zeiset, both from Pennsylvania, had topics for the seminar. Anthony with his family had served in the mission and knows the language fairly well. Kathy Frey, Ontario, and Bethany Burkholder, PA, capably serve in the Mission's clinic. Kathy signed the sessions for three deaf teachers (?) at the seminar. The mission operates a "deaf school" nearby where Curtis and Sharon Martin serve with their family. Kathy plans to devote her talents by moving to the deaf school. We appreciated her gentle communication and the respect shown her at a local market.

Martha Stalter, Naomi Williams, and Sarah Cover traveled to Haiti with us. They helped at the Christian Witness Mission three hours away and attended the seminar one day.

M.G.M. also promotes "self help" projects by buying beautiful handmade items, especially intricate crocheted doilies for resale in America.

We should be thankful for our country of freedom, prosperity, smooth highways, clean water, order, healthcare facilities, Christian education and simple work ethics. Haiti has freedom of religion but not prosperity or good government. God holds us responsible for the gifts He gives us. Jesus tells us to lay up treasure in heaven--not on earth. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." --L.C. & M.C.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Thy Kingdom Come"

*Let Thy kingdom, blessed Savior
Come and bid our jarrings cease;
Come, oh come and reign forever,
God of love and Prince of peace.*

Once more we unite our voices in song as we lift up this plea to God. We have sung this song often of late, and I think it is fitting. It is what we all truly desire--that His kingdom would come. And when His kingdom comes, of course our jarrings will cease.

This phrase is the first petition to God in our Lord's prayer. We have acknowledged who He is--our Father in heaven--and we have worshipped Him. This order is by design. We now have access to the throne and can lay out our petitions. We can see what was on our Lord's mind first and foremost. Our daily needs are mentioned later, but Christ saw this as most important.

I think this phrase could be taken two different ways. It is the ultimate desire of every Christian to see the clouds be rolled back and the King return to earth to set up a kingdom with all His chosen, but I also see, as in the song quoted above, that believers desire God's kingdom among them now. The second verse of that hymn starts:

Come, good Lord, with courage arm us;
Persecution rages here;
Nothing, Lord, we know can harm us
While our Shepherd is so near.

We hear a lot about the kingdom. Many Scriptures talk of God's kingdom. Hebrews 1:8 calls it a righteous kingdom. "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom."

Hebrews 11:13-16 contrasts strangers and pilgrims with a country "that is an heavenly," and God calls His kingdom "a City" in verse 16. In St. John 18:36, "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world; If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

This kingdom is also one of truth and love. It will expose deception and expel hate. It will transform the lives of those who join its ranks. It will permeate every aspect of life and death. It is an eternal kingdom. It gives hope beyond the grave.

Spiritually there are only two kingdoms in this world: the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. Ever since there were two kingdoms, there has been war. Brethren and sisters, when we pray, "Thy kingdom come," it sets off alarms in the kingdom of darkness. When we, as mortal creatures, boldly appeal for our Father in heaven to come, it makes Satan tremble.

The war is real. The war is on. Satan, as ruler of the kingdom of darkness, is coming at us from all directions. Do not be discouraged; fight on! As we humbly ask the King to intervene, we can have peace and calm. The more earnestly and sincerely we desire His kingdom to come, individually and collectively, the more we will see the mighty power of the everlasting kingdom. We take joy in the battle when the King reigns in our lives on a daily basis. At the same time, we anticipate the return of the King in His splendor to set up His kingdom here on earth. "Even so come, Lord Jesus." (Reprinted from August, 2005.)

Peter Cover

Tuolumne, California

A love for God's Word is an acquired taste. As parents, we have the opportunity to whet our children's appetites. --Selected

The following article is the result of a study by Brother Earl Barton some years ago. He gave it to me, not to publish, but for my own interest as a cousin. It is worth reading, and I regret that I did not publish it while he was living. --L.C.

CHRISTIANITY, THE BIG "PUT ON!"

I. Old Testament.

In the Old Testament approximately thirty-six "put on's" are used. Twenty-nine refer to external wearing apparel: (robe 2; raiment 2; garments 11; linen garments 1; linen coat 1; mourning apparel 1; armour 2; sackcloth 2; royal apparel 1; linen girdle 2; shoes 1; ornaments 2; linen breeches 1.) Incense used in temple worship is used once. To put on the physical character of strength is used twice. To put on the moral character of righteousness is used twice.

The following Scriptures are a sample of Old Testament verses where the expression "put on" is used.

Gen. And she (Tamar) arose, and went away, and laid her vail from her and *put on* the garments of her widowhood.

Ex. And that son that is a priest in his stead shall *put them on* seven days, when he cometh into the tabernacle of the congregation to minister in the holy place.

Ex. And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did *put on* his ornaments.

Lev. And the priest shall *put on* his linen garment, and his linen breeches shall he *put upon* his flesh, and take up the ashes which the fire hath consumed with the burnt offering on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar.

Lev. And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to *put on* the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes;

- Num. And Moses said unto Aaron, Take the censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and *put on* incense, and go quickly unto the congregation; and make atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the Lord; the plague is begun.
- Deut. The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man *put on* a woman's garment: for all that do so are an abomination unto the Lord thy God.
- II Sam. Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who *put on* ornaments of gold upon your apparel.
- I Ki. And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and enter into battle; but *put thou on* thy robes.
- Esth. When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and *put on* sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and bitter cry.
- Esth. Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther *put on* her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house. . .
- Isa. Awake, awake; *put on* strength, O Zion; *put on* thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for henceforth there shall no more come unto thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.
- Jer. Thus saith the Lord unto me, Go and get thee a linen girdle, and *put it upon* thy loins, and put it not in water. So I got a girdle according to the word of the Lord, and *put it on* my loins.
- Jer. Harness the horses; and get up, ye horsemen and stand forth with your helmets; furbish the spears, and *put on* the brigantines.
- Ezek. And when they go forth into the outer court, even unto

the outer court, to the people, they shall put off their garments wherein they ministered, and lay them in the holy chambers, and they shall *put on* other garments; and they shall not sanctify the people with their garments.

Ezek. When the priests enter therein, then shall they not go out of the holy place into the outer court, but shall lay their garments wherein they minister; for they are holy; and shall *put on* other garments, and shall approach to those things which are for the people.

Jonah So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and *put on* sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

II Sam. And Joab's garment that he *put on* was girded unto him.

This collection of Old Testament Scripture wherein the phrase "put on" is used, shows a stated meaning and reference to outer wearing apparel. Take note of a new and entirely different meaning of what "put on" refers to in the New Testament. The change can be better understood by Hebrews 7:11,12:

"If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law."

II. The New Testament Put On's.

Matt. 6:25: Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for the body, what ye shall *put on*. Is not your life more than meat, and the body more than raiment?

Luke 15:22: But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and *put it on* him, and a ring upon his hand, and shoes upon his feet.

Mark 6:9: And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no script, no bread, no money in their purse: but be shod with sandals; and not *put on* two coats.

In these verses Christ is teaching and doing what He loves to do, namely, to supply all our needs. He will clothe us. He here is endeavoring to free us from personal anxious thoughts. He takes pleasure in showing us His love, mercy, and goodness to those whose hope is stayed in Him.

These Scripture verses point out that we must have faith in our Lord and depend on Him for all the great things that we believe He will do for us in the future world to come, but it is here that we must first learn to trust in His will concerning us. The business of the devil's servants is to make provisions for the flesh and to fulfill the lusts thereof.

The prodigal son arose and came to his father and when he was a great way off, his father saw him. He came in filthy rags but the father not only clothed him in the best robe but adorned him also. Blessed be the name of God the Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. (to be continued.)

INTERESTING LETTER DATED MAY 30, 1985

Mayor William Jones
Listowel Town Council
Police Chief R. R. Martin
Listowel Kinsmen Club

Dear Sir:

Recently I went to our local veterinary clinic for some chloramphenicol to treat my sick calves. I was informed this drug is no longer available and will soon be taken right off the market. The reason for this is because two people have died as a result of traces of this drug found in meat. I was given a safer medicine to use in its place.

I drove home from the vet feeling grateful, yet confused. Grateful that people still care that much about human life, that when someone dies from careless use of a drug, action is taken to make sure it doesn't happen again. In this case, chloramphenicol will no longer be available. Life is sacred. We do all we can to save a life.

I was grateful. . . yet confused. Confused because in some areas we are so careful to preserve life; while in other areas we are so unconcerned about the cause of death. Confused because alcohol, a well-known poison, is so widely accepted, so readily available, is the cause of so many deaths--yet is still allowed.

On April 20, two people were killed in an alcohol related accident. Three others were hospitalized and have not yet fully recovered. I am a local pastor. One of the deceased and two of the injured were members of my congregation.

The family phoned me at midnight to inform me of the tragedy. I spent the rest of the night at the hospital trying to bring comfort and help to the broken hearted. During the next few days I witnessed first hand, the grief, shock, sorrow, and pain of the five families involved.

Two lives were lost because of traces of chloramphenicol found in slaughtered animals. Action was taken. It will no longer be available. I was disappointed because it was an excellent medicine and had helped many of my sick animals. But I understand, and I approve. The cost is too great.

Two lives were lost on April 20 because of alcohol. Action will be taken. . . Alcohol is a poison and will no longer be available. . . Maybe some people will be disappointed, but I'm sure they will understand. The cost is just too great!

I drove home from the veterinary clinic, grateful. . . but confused. --John Drudge

P.S. I have been reading with horror, about the proposed beer garden in Listowel for the ball tournament. Perhaps those

in favor of the beer garden have never lost an innocent loved one because of alcohol--or perhaps have never sat beside those who have.

I have one last question: Will transportation be provided for those participating in the beer garden, so that they will not endanger the lives of others?

I will be nervous all evening on June 21 and 22. Will I get another phone call at midnight?

CORRECTION

Marriages from last issue: Marcus Royer and Diana Stalter

BAPTISMS

Eric Skiles	Wakarusa, Indiana	July 26
Rosanna Stalter	Wakarusa, Indiana	August 9
Nathan Tate	Wakarusa, Indiana	August 9

We wish God's blessings on these dear young people who have chosen to follow the Savior.

BIRTHS

MARTIN - A son, Jadon Will, born August 7 to Neil and Lois Martin of New Paris, Indiana.

HUFFMAN - A son, Ezra Leroy, born August 24 to Philip and Rhoda Huffman of New Lebanon, Ohio.

FRICK - A son, Landon Daniel, born August 27 to Marlan and Regina Frick of New Lebanon, Ohio.

THE REFINER'S FIRE

He sat by a furnace of seven-fold heat,
As He watched by the precious ore,
And closer he bent with a searching gaze,
As he heated it more and more.

He knew He had ore that could stand the test
And He wanted the finest gold
To mold as a crown for the King to wear.
Set with gems of price untold.

So He laid our gold in the burning fire,
Though we fain would say Him, "Nay;"
And watched the dross that we had not seen,
As it melted and passed away.

And the gold grew brighter and yet more bright,
But our eyes were dim with tears;
We saw but the fire, not the Master's hand
And questioned with anxious fears.

Yet our gold shone out with a richer glow,
As it mirrored a Form above,
That bent o'er the fire, though unseen by us,
With a look of ineffable love.

Can we think it pleases His loving heart
To cause us a moment's pain?
Ah, no! but He sees through the present cross,
The bliss of eternal gain.

So He waited there with a watchful eye,
With a love that is strong and sure,
And His gold did not suffer a bit more heat
Than was needed to make it pure.

Selected. Author unknown to us.

The Gift of Listening: But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listen. --Selected

SOME THOUGHTS ON HOSPITALITY

Is hospitality an opportunity to serve, or an opportunity to show off? Do I love the feeling of fellowship because I seek to bless others, or because I long to be filled myself? Do I secretly hope for the honor of compliments and praise, or do I instead honor our guests with encouraging words? In short, do I really like to **serve** or am I really **selfish**?

William Johnson
Nappanee, Indiana

FOR YOUTH

Our Commitment For This Year
Ten Basic Classroom Rules

1. **We Will Love To Learn**

Pro. 4:5: Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Pro. 4:6: Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

Pro. 4:7: Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

2. **We Will Do Our Best With All Our Might.**

Ec. 9:10: Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, no knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

3. **We Will Distance Ourselves From Evil.**

I Th. 5:22: Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Php. 2:12: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely,

whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

4. **We will Obey Our Authorities.**

Heb. 13:17: Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Php. 2:12: Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

5. **We Will Be Honest And Trustworthy.**

Eph. 4:25: Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Pro. 25:19: Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

6. **We Will Use Only Good Speech.**

Eph. 4:29: Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

7. **We Will Use Kindness Toward All.**

Eph. 4:31: Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.

Php. 2:2: Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Php. 2:3: Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Lu. 6:31: And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

8. **We Will Be Good Stewards.**

I Cor. 4:2: Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

9. We Will Be Decent and Orderly.

I Cor. 14:40: Let all things be done decently and in order.

10. We Will Honor The Word of God.

II Tim. 3:15: And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

II Tim. 3:16: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Luke Bennetch

CHILDREN'S PAGE**"Me Want Drink"**

"School is done, School is done,

Toss up caps and have a run."

sang Dennis and Carol as they slid their lunch pails across the counter with a clatter.

"Good," smiled Mother. "You should change your clothes now. Carol, hurry, because Angela has wanted to play outside all afternoon since her nap. I couldn't let her go outside because the fence isn't quite finished yet. I'll let her go outside now, so hurry."

"All right, Mother." Carol gave her little sister's dark curls a loving pat as she started up the steps.

"Where is that little mischief?" thought Carol as she skipped outside after changing her dress. "She's probably hiding just to tease me.

"Where shall I look first?" Carol wondered as she glanced down the long lane leading to the dirt road that went past the big pond on the neighbor's property.

Then she gasped. "Mother! Angela's at the pond!"

As Carol flew down the lane she saw that Rover, their buff and white collie, was standing between Angela and the water.

"Thank You, Father," Carol breathed silently as she picked up her two-year-old sister and started for the house.

Angela was crying. "Bad doggie. Me want drink."

Mother came to meet them.

"Rover had knocked her down, and when she tried to get up, he kept knocking her down," explained Carol. "But I don't know how she got down there so fast."

"Well, we know God protected her," said Mother. "And He used Rover. We surely must thank Him for His goodness."

By Ruth Hope Landis

From *Wee Lambs* May, 1971

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

FOLLOW ME

Hark! the voice of Jesus calling, "Follow Me, follow Me!"
Softly through the silence falling, "Follow, follow Me!"
As of old He called the fishers,
When He walked by Galilee,
Still His patient voice is pleading, "Follow, follow Me!"

Who will heed the holy mandate, "Follow Me, follow Me!"
Leaving all things at His bidding, "Follow, follow Me!"
Hark! that tender voice entreating,
Mariners on life's rough sea,
Gently, lovingly repeating, "Follow, follow Me!"

Hearken, lest He plead no longer, "Follow Me, follow Me!"
Once again, oh, hear Him calling, "Follow, follow Me!"
Turning swift at Thy sweet summons,
Evermore, O Christ, would we,
For Thy love all else forsaking, Follow, follow Thee!

M. B. Sleight
Spiritual Songs and Hymns

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PRECIOUS THINGS

Walking along looking for dead trees (potential firewood) on my property, I noticed a rock that was nearly clear like quartz. I had to examine it closely. *Maybe I would see a little gold imbedded in the rock.* Why would I be drawn to this? Because gold is precious.

But gold is not the only precious thing. I Peter 2:4,6: "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious. . . Behold I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded." What a blessed Savior! What a precious Rock!

Friends and possessions are precious because of what they can do or buy--or just because we love them. Jesus is most precious for what He can do and has done for us. His blood is valuable because it was given in atonement for our sins.

Our heritage should be precious to us. Without boasting, may we appreciate the teaching our parents and leaders gave us in their understanding of the Scriptures.

For one example, I think of the modesty of our sisters' clothing. There is no comparison of its value beside the fashions of the world. I see some women, even professed Christians, and know that my daughters and other sisters in the church would never dress like they do. I cannot even picture them like that with bare shoulders, low necklines, and form-fitting pants. Many girls (perhaps) do it innocently, not realizing the temptation they put before men of all ages.

And so I say, this modesty should be precious to us. May we not lose it or compromise clothing that covers by making it flashy and attention-getting with gaudy patterns or colors.

Another precious principle we have been given is non-resistance. The positive of this "non" is peace and love. Our faithful leaders of the past preached and tried to live the life of peace. Jesus taught non-resistance and peace in His Sermon on the Mount. "Love your enemies; bless them that curse you" Turn the other cheek. Paul echoed this in Romans 12:14: "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not." 12:17: "Recompense to no man evil for evil."

How does this translate into our daily lives? People don't smite us on the face. But someone might criticize us. Others might expect us to speak against someone. Gossip, for sure, is a current issue for non-resistance. We don't go to war for the country, but one official, General Hershey, called plain people "pretty good scrappers," referring to quarrels and divisions among our own number.

Another precious teaching is absolute honesty: truth on tax forms, fairness in business, and speaking the truth in love. We are not required to tell every detail of our lives, but what we say should be right and unquestionable. It is easy to exaggerate. Hospital workers are not to disclose any treatment or sickness of a patient nor even to ask why they are there, thus respecting their privacy. Some might enjoy talking about their accidents or illness; others don't.

Jesus had compassion on the multitudes, but He also warned the hypocrites. We want to be like Him, but we don't know hearts like He does. However, we can give out His precious Word and tell what He has done for us.

Life is precious; so is death for God's children. Psalm 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Death will be destroyed, but the precious part is what is beyond. Unless Jesus comes first, death and the resurrection usher us into eternal life.

Death to sin is also precious. It is valuable because Jesus commanded it. "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and

come after me, cannot be my disciple." Treasure that cross. Some have a heavy cross. It might be a physical handicap or blindness or difficult care for the elderly. But we all have the same cross on which we are crucified to the world and the world crucified to us.

What things are precious to you? How many can you name? My list would include precious children and grandchildren; also, God's grace and mercy to one who does not deserve it. *Lord, please help us to see ourselves dependent on your precious love.* --L.C.

TRIED AND TEMPERED

It is frustrating to make a mechanical repair and find it does not hold because the steel used in the repair did not have the proper temper. The temper can be too hard and break due to lack of flexibility, or the temper can be soft and not support stress placed upon it. Tempering is done through a heating and cooling process. I would like to compare this to some of life's experiences.

Have you ever felt you have been through the fire of trials and temptations? Have you felt the cold realities of life? If you have, perhaps the Lord is preparing you for His work. When challenges face us, either in the church or in the family, are we strong enough and are we pliable enough to take the stress of dealing with the situation? Maybe the Lord is preparing us for what lies ahead.

Just as properly tempered steel can take the stresses placed upon it, so should we maintain a mindset that can deal with difficult situations. Many who are reading this have experienced and are experiencing heart rending decisions which threaten personal and spiritual relationships. If we trust in God's word with prayer, this intrusion of the adversary can be overcome. Even when it seems there are unfair occurrences, we must allow the tempering effects of the Holy Spirit to

strengthen us. God will not allow us to be tempted more than we can handle. Sometimes what seems at the moment to be disastrous, may with patience and forbearance serve to further the cause of the Lord.

When we stand up for the right and accept what the Lord allows us to bear, He will give us the strength to overcome. Along with this victory there will be a lasting joy of being in God's will. (I Peter 1:7,8) Remember that Jesus was tried and tempted. We can also be expected to be tried and tempted as well as being tried and tempered.

Joseph E. Wagner, Modesto, California

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Thy Will Be Done

"Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." I have often found myself thinking as I pray our Lord's prayer: "That isn't possible that our Father's will would be done here like it is in heaven." In a way, that's right, but we have this part of our Lord's prayer for a reason.

Viewing this world and world events, we see Satan wreaking havoc in the minds and hearts of many people. We see people losing their lives through natural and "man made" disasters. Wickedness is showing itself more and more. Is this the will of God? No, He is not willing that any should perish.

We need to have a broader view yet. In light of eternity, our perspective changes. We have just prayed, "Thy kingdom come," and we know it will. As we pray, "Thy will be done," we can know assuredly that it will be. God wins in the end.

Jesus Christ is our example, and we see Him exposing evil in hypocrites and expelling evil from the humble. We don't see Him coming to earth so much to conquer Satan as to save His people from Satan. Our Father's will is the same. He could come to earth and wipe it completely clean of all wickedness as it is in heaven. Some day He will, but we have a merciful God.

God is vexed with wickedness and death that are here because of Satan. He doesn't like to see what's happening here on earth, the pinnacle of His creation. He has chosen--which then becomes His will--to allow His creation to suffer and groan under the weight of a cruel taskmaster that He might be glorified in the end.

So where does our part come in? We must also choose the same thing our Father has chosen. It must become our will. We cannot eradicate evil from this world. We are not given the power for that task. The broader view of eternity must be brought into the perspective of our own personal lives. Is my Father's will being done in me? Am I making choices that would also be choices my Father would make? Our choices and our will go hand in hand. The choices we make only reflect whose will we are following. What is God's will for my life? How can He be glorified most through me? These are all personal questions and must be answered in a personal way. May we all individually choose the will of our Father, and thus we will be one in purpose collectively.

St. John 17 is full of God's divine will for our lives. In verse 9, Jesus prayed for us, not for the world, and in verse 15 He prayed ". . . not that thou shouldest take them out of the world but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." That is God's will. Therefore as we are faced with evil, we can also know that we will be given strength to conquer.

In John 17:24 Jesus' will is laid out so beautifully to the Father. "Father, I will that they also whom thou hast given me be with me where I am. . . ." This was said by the perfect Lamb of God less than a day before He gave His life for the same ones He is praying for. With love like that we cannot go wrong in yielding our will to God's will and in doing so, His will is done on earth.

(Reprinted from September, 2005)
Peter Cover, Tuolumne, California

A TENDER HEART

Without a tenderness of spirit the most intensely righteous, religious life is like the image of God without His beauty and attractiveness. It is possible to be very religious, and staunch, and persevering in all Christian duties, even to be a brave defender and preacher of holiness, and blameless in outward life, and yet to be greatly lacking in tenderness of spirit, that all-subduing, all-melting love, which streamed out from the eyes and voice of the Blessed Jesus.

Many Christians seem loaded with good fruits, but the fruit tastes green; it lacks flavor and October mellowness. There is a touch of vinegar in their sanctity. Their very purity has an icy coldness to it. Their testimonies are straight and definite, but they lack the melting quality. Their prayers are intelligent and strong and pointed, but they lack the heart-piercing pathos of the dying Jesus. They preach eloquently and explain with utmost nicety what is sin and what is pardon and purity, but they lack the burning flame, that interior furnace of throbbing love, that sighs and weeps and breaks down under the shimmering heat of all-consuming love.

Divine tenderness of spirit has a behavior to it which is superhuman and heavenly. It instinctively avoids wounding the feelings of others by talking on unpleasant things, wrangling in an argumentative way, by referring to painful and mortifying subjects. It carries its point by ceasing to contend and wins its opponent by seeming to let him have his way. It cannot scold, or scowl, or threaten; it has lost the power of quarreling. Tenderness of spirit makes its home in the bosom of Jesus, and from that Holy Castle, looks out upon all other creatures, good and bad, through the hopeful, pleading medium of the Heart that was pierced on the cross. It feels all things from God's standpoint, and lives but to receive and transmit the spotless sympathies and affections of Jesus. It understands the words of

the Holy Ghost, "Be ye tender-hearted, forgiving one another." Tenderness must be in the very nature, and forgiveness is but the behavior of that nature. --G. D. Watson,

author of the CLP tract *Others May--You Cannot*

CHRISTIANITY, THE BIG "PUT ON!"

(Continued from last issue.)

How to Dress Ourselves

So That Our Put On Will Not Be A "Put On."

Rom. 13:12: The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us *put on* the armour of light.

Rom. 13:14: But *put ye on* the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lust thereof.

I Cor. 15:1: For this corruptible must *put on* incorruption, and this mortal must *put on* immortality. So when this corruptible shall have *put on* incorruption, and this mortal shall have *put on* immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Gal. 3:27: For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have *put on* Christ.

Col. 3:10: And have *put on* the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

Eph. 4:24: And that ye *put on* the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Col. 3:12: *Put on* therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Eph. 6:12: *Put on* the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

When we have been cleansed, what are we to put on?

By baptism, we have in profession *put on* Christ, *put Him on* as Lord to rule over us, as Jesus to save us, and both in Christ, appointed by the Father to the ruling, saving work. We are to *put on* the Lord Jesus Christ, that is to dress our souls not in the lusts of the flesh, but by covering ourselves inwardly and outwardly with the Holy Spirit of Christ. So in that great day of His coming, this corruptible body will be made (by Him) incorruptible, and this mortal will be made immortal. If we have *put on* the Lord Jesus Christ, by being baptized in Him, we have *put on* Christ and are the children of God by faith in His Son.

We are to strip ourselves of our former nature, putting off and discarding all of our own, old, unrenewed self, that which was characterized by our previous nature and manner of life, being corrupt through lust and desire that come from delusion. But now *Putting on* the new nature in Christ (the regenerated self) created in God's image, God-like in true righteousness and holiness. We must put away and be rid completely of bitterness, anger, rage, bad feelings towards others, foul-mouthed abuse, and shameful deeds, casting off the old and unregenerated self with its evil practices. We are now *putting on* and clothing the new spiritual self which is ever in the process of being renewed and remolded (a continual process) into fuller and a more perfect knowledge, after the image and likeness of Him whom we have espoused.

Our clothing is not to be of the world but of the world to come, as His chosen ones; His representatives, purified and holy, well-beloved of God Himself, by the *putting on* of behavior marked by tenderheartedness, pity and mercy, kind feelings towards all, patience with gentle ways, being long-suffering and tireless, stouthearted. These are but a few of the

things that we should *put on* and wear daily. When we got up to dress this morning, what did we *put on*?

When Christ Was **Put On** The Cross.

Mat.27:28: And they stripped him, and *put on* him a scarlet robe.

Mat. 27:29: And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they *put it on* His head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

Mark 15:36: And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and *put it on* a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down. And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

John 19:19: And Pilate wrote a title, and *put it on* the cross, and the writing was, Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews.

They stripped off the clothes of our Lord and *put on* a scarlet robe upon Him. And weaving a crown of thorns they put it on His head, and they put a reed-staff in His right hand. Kneeling before Him they made fun of our Saviour, saying, Hail King of the Jews. And they spat upon Him, and took the reed-staff and struck Him on the head. And when they finished making sport of Him, they again stripped Him of the robe and *put on* His own garments, and led Him away and put Him on a cross to crucify Him. From the sixth hour to the ninth hour our King surveyed His Kingdom and cried for God's help. And one man ran, and filling a sponge with a mixture of sour wine and water and put it on a reed to give Him to drink. And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed out His life. And Pilate had a sign made and put it on the cross, and on the sign was printed, "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews." These are some of the things that our Lord and Saviour *put on* for us.

The near-sighted soldiers that crucified our Christ were blind in their thinking that the main value of the Lord was in His garments, for which they cast lots for their possession.

How sad that they had no concept of and completely missed finding the riches that are in Jesus Christ our Lord. Of course the natural, nonspiritual man does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly and meaningless nonsense to him; and he is incapable of knowing or understanding, of growing to recognize them, or becoming better acquainted with all these riches because they are spiritually discerned. For who among us knows, understands, or perceives what goes on in another man's mind and reason except the mind of the man's own spirit. In like manner no one knows or can comprehend or is able to discern the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. At our baptizing and being regenerated a new man by His calling, He has made it available to replace our worldly minds and spirits with the Holy Spirit of God, given to us only by God Himself, that we may be able to realize and comprehend, to appreciate and glory in the glorious and divine gifts that He so freely and lavishly bestows upon His children. These are truths set forth not by worldly wisdom of man's mind, but they are taught by the Holy Spirit in Sacred Scripture, teaching and combining Spiritual truths in Spiritual language to those to whom God has given His Holy Spirit.

Therefore we can put on Christ; we can put on the new man; we can put on Spiritual armour, not by ourselves but having faith in Him that He can do it. For being made in His image we are now made with the ability to know Him. For He has saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

'BLESSED BE GOD. EVEN THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF MERCIES AND THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT!'

--Earl Barton

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

A diamond in the rough
Is a diamond sure enough;
Before it's ever polished
It is made of diamond stuff.

But then someone must find it
Or it never will be found,
And, too, someone must grind it
Or it never will be ground.

But when it's found and when it's ground
And when it's burnished bright,
That diamond is everlastingly
A-flashing out its light.

Oh, teacher of the day school,
Don't say you've done enough.
That worst boy in your class
May be a diamond in the rough.

Perhaps you think he's grinding you,
And possibly you're right;
But it may be you need grinding
To burnish you up bright.

Selected

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BIRTHS

MARTIN, A daughter, Nettie Ann, born September 12 to Jon and Lisa Martin of Nappanee, Indiana.

FLORA, A daughter, Autumn Rose, born October 6 to Ryan and Rosanna Flora of Lakeville, IN

FOR YOUTH

Bible events and places they happened.

Match these places with the description of where they happened: *Damascus, Caesarea, Sychar in Samaria, Bethsaida, Jordan, Crete, Philippi, Galilee, Lystra, Jerusalem, Patmos, Nazareth, Smyrna, Ephesus, Joppa.*

1. Where Jesus spent His youth. _____
2. Where Paul was stoned and drawn out of the city "supposing he had been dead." _____
3. The home of Philip, Andrew, and Peter. _____
4. Where Jesus spoke to the woman at Jacob's well.

5. Where the disciples were when the Holy Ghost came on the day of Pentecost. _____
6. Where Paul was let down in a basket. _____
7. Where Dorcas died and was raised to life through Peter.

8. The home of Cornelius, the first Gentile convert.

9. Where the false worship of Diana centered. _____
10. Where John received The Revelation. _____
11. Where Paul and Silas sang praises to God with their feet in the stocks in prison. _____
12. The church of Asia that Jesus found no fault with but told, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

13. Where Paul left Titus to set in order the things that were wanting. _____
14. The sea where Jesus walked on the water. _____
15. River where Jesus was baptized. _____

CHILDREN'S PAGE

A Cup of Cold Water

Doing something for Jesus. The preacher had talked about it at church that morning, and now Dad was talking about it after reading a missionary story. Cathy wished she could do something, but what could an eight-year-old do?

"I wish you were a missionary, Dad," said ten-year-old Richard. "It would be fun!"

"Fun?" questioned Dad. "What part? Getting robbed? Wading through deep mud?" He was smiling as he said this.

"No." Richard looked a little uncertain now. "Helping people, I guess."

"Me too!" said Cathy.

"Well," asked Dad, "do you think you need to go to another country to do something? Jesus blesses even giving a cup of cold water."

"No one here is that thirsty," Cathy said. "And they can get their own!"

"Don't be so sure of that," answered Dad. "Look for opportunities to do things for others, and I am sure you will find them. That's how you can do something for Jesus."

Later that evening Cathy was curled up on the couch reading when little Timothy nearly dumped her water off the end-table beside her.

"Timothy, no!" she exclaimed. "Go play with your toys!"

Timothy didn't go. He just whimpered and reached for her water again.

"No, Timothy! You can't have any of my water! You'll put floaties in it. Yuck!" She put the water up where Timothy couldn't reach it.

Timothy plopped down on the floor and roared. Cathy ignored him, and finally he toddled away. She heard him

whimpering in the kitchen. Soon he was back, reaching vainly for her water and crying.

"What's wrong, Timothy?" Dad asked, coming into the living room just then.

"He's trying to drink my water," answered Cathy. "He'll make it yucky."

"Cathy," Dad said disapprovingly. "Then why don't you get him his own? I thought you wanted to do something for Jesus. Can Timothy get his own drink?"

Cathy didn't answer, but she did get Timothy a drink. And when she saw how thirstily he drank, and how happy he then was, she was sorry she had not cared at first. Timothy certainly was worth getting a drink for. It wasn't less important just because he was her brother instead of a poor child in another country. Next time she would try to remember to give Timothy a drink for Jesus!

Martha J. Wagner
Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

GOD OF OUR FATHERS

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide, and Stay,
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase;
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine;
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

--Daniel C. Roberts

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THANKSGIVING IN TRIALS

It is wrong to complain. When we complain we are like children fussing for no apparent reason. Father sometimes gives his crying child "something to cry about." This is about what happened when God's people Israel had been delivered miraculously from Egypt, and they began to complain. They were tired of the manna which the Psalmist Asaph said was "angels' food," the very best. They wept for the Egyptian vegetables. God gave them quails for a month "until it come out your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you," and then they had something to complain about.

The opposite of complaining is giving thanks. Each year our country sets aside a day of Thanksgiving. It is one of the few Christian holidays. I fondly remember the family gatherings we had when I was a boy at home. My thanksgiving was probably shallow, but I did enjoy the occasion itself. We were blest beyond our understanding at that time. Later, when we knew our Savior, we could give fervent thanks for deliverance from the power of sin and the new life He gives.

One of the strangest and probably most sincere thanksgiving came from an odd and unique place. Jonah was not too thankful when he was called to cry against Ninevah for their wickedness. This was a powerful enemy city, and Jonah fled in the other direction. But his attitude changed. The belly of a whale was not exactly a cruise ship. Inside the enormous fish, Jonah repented and called upon God. His last words in Jonah 2: "But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord." Swimming in corruption with weeds wrapped about his head, Jonah gave thanks. Because his life was spared? Because he realized God was merciful? Because he knew he had

disobeyed? He doesn't explain completely, but his testimony showed his change of heart.

Jonah should have kept his thankful attitude. Is a thankful heart that hard to keep? The test for us is similar to Jonah's. When he saw Ninevah repent, God show mercy, and his enemies spared, he was displeased and very angry. God reasoned with this selfish man. The account reveals God's mercy, but man's tendency to relapse into our old attitudes.

How are we at this time of thanksgiving? We shouldn't have enemies, but if we do, Jesus says to love them. Jonah's reaction demonstrates the way we sometimes act. We are not too pleased when God blesses a competitor. Envy sneaks in almost undetected. We cannot be thankful and at the same time resent the success of others.

Saul's son Jonathan is one good example of being glad at another's blessing. He had right to expect to be the next king of Israel. But David was chosen over Saul, and Jonathan knew it meant second place for him. His secret was that he loved David. It wasn't a love dependent on rosy times. His love weathered disappointment. It survived when Saul's temper would have eliminated his competition. Isn't that what love really is?

Complaining when we should be thankful only demonstrates near-sightedness. Our life here is fleeting--a moment of limited understanding--a second of weakness compared to eternity of bliss. We are like a child in school who would be glad if all were recesses and weekends.

Let us be thankful for all that God allows. He sees to the end and knows what we really need. And if it means suffering, let us remember that our Savior suffered much more than He asks of us.

*"Our troubles and our trials here
Will only make us richer there,
When we arrive at home." -L.C.*

HOME

He the pearly gates will open
So that I may enter in,
For He purchased my redemption
And forgave me all my sin.

I listen to her sing along with the cassette in her player. Her voice is cracked and rough. She rocks back and forth slowly. Sunlight streams in the window. Her eyes are closed and she's in her own little world.

Different families from our congregation have been taking care of this ninety-five year old lady in their homes. Lillie arrived here several days ago and will be with us for a few weeks. She loves to hear old hymns sung. "That's beautiful. Sing some more." she murmurs as another song finishes playing.

Moments like this make the effort we put into having her with us seem worth it. Lillie can no longer see, but thankfully she can hear. Story tapes or singing tapes help pass the time for her.

She's usually very grateful for everything we do for her. "Once a man, twice a child," I think as we help her get ready to go away or help her eat breakfast.

Other times her mind is foggy, and she's tired of staying here. She asks us to help her find her shoes. "I want to go home," she declares. Nothing we say can change her mind, and all we can do is let her talk it out.

When will the Lord come for Lillie? She has no permanent home here. We sometimes forget that none of us do. Will the Lord's return find us ready?

Jesse Martin
Wakarusa, Indiana

EVENING

"And they fortified Jerusalem unto the broad wall."

Nehemiah 3:8

Cities well fortified have broad walls, and so had Jerusalem in her glory. The New Jerusalem must, in like manner, be surrounded and preserved by a broad wall of nonconformity to the world, and *separation* from its customs and spirit. The tendency of these days is to break down the holy barrier, and make the distinction between the church and the world merely nominal. Professors are no longer strict and Puritanical, questionable literature is read on all hands, frivolous pastimes are currently indulged, and a general laxity threatens to deprive the Lord's peculiar people of those sacred singularities which separate them from sinners. It will be an ill day for the church and the world when the proposed amalgamation shall be complete, and sons of God and the daughters of men shall be as one: then shall another deluge of wrath be ushered in. Beloved reader, be it your aim in heart, in word, in dress, in action to maintain the broad wall, remembering that the friendship of this world is enmity against God.

The broad wall afforded a pleasant place of resort for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, from which they could command prospects of the surrounding country. This reminds us of the Lord's exceeding broad commandments, in which we walk at liberty in communion with Jesus, overlooking the scenes of earth, and looking out towards the glories of heaven. Separated from the world, and denying ourselves all ungodliness and fleshly lusts, we are nevertheless not in prison, nor restricted within narrow bounds; nay, we walk at liberty, because we keep His precepts. Come, reader, this evening walk with God in His statutes. As friend met friend upon the city wall, so meet thou thy God in the way of holy prayer and meditation. The

bulwarks of salvation thou hast a right to traverse, for thou art a freeman of the royal burgh, a citizen of the metropolis of the universe.

Charles H. Spurgeon in *Morning and Evening*
McDonald Publishing Co.
Selected by Martha Wagner

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

As I thought over our Lord's prayer phrase by phrase, my thoughts on this part immediately went to our daily physical needs. We are asking God to supply our needs physically. We need to eat and drink. We need clothes to wear. We might be asking for good health and a warm, dry home. We know all these things are blessings direct from the hand of God. We are to ask Him for such things and thank Him for answering our prayer.

Recently we heard an inspiring message on "The Bread of Life." Since then I have come to see this phrase in a new light. All of the above may be included in "Give us this day our daily bread," but it pales in comparison to asking for the Bread of Life. "Lord, feed us daily with the Bread of Life!" Hymn #342 in our little black hymnbook says. "*Our daily meat, Lord, let it be Thy will to do and follow Thee.*" The Bread and Water of Life is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. We are to be filled with Him daily. He is our sustaining nourishment. Without Him we will die. He is all we need. Jesus Christ is all-important. Without Him all the physical blessings we could ask for are futile, empty, and vain.

Soon after our Lord gave us His prayer, He taught us, "Therefore, take no thought, saying, *What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:31-33)

It is much more important to implore our Father in heaven for the Bread of Life than for any earthly blessings we may need. Jesus says if we seek Him first and seek His kingdom foremost in our lives, our daily physical needs will be met. Too often we get the cart before the horse, so to speak. I believe we will be given all we need to reflect His goodness, His righteousness, and His kingdom. We can't look forward to prosperity while following Christ and partaking of Him. Instead we look forward to suffering, brokenness, and death to the carnal man.

May we all be thankful for the bountiful blessing God has given us as we feed and drink of Him freely.

(Reprinted from October-November, 2005)

Peter Cover, Tuolumne, California

JOSEPH SCRIVEN--HYMN STORY

One hundred and ninety years ago near the village of Banbridge, County Down, Ireland, a baby boy was born. His Irish mother called him Joseph.

The parents of Joseph made sure that he received a good education. In 1842, he graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, with a bachelor of arts degree.

Now a young man with a quarter century behind him, Joseph felt the sharp pangs of tragedy strike for the first time. The young Irish lass whom he intended to marry was thrown from a horse while crossing the Ban River and was drowned.

In his sorrow, Joseph turned his life course away from his native Ireland and by the middle of the eighteen hundreds had

emigrated to Canada. In a little rural village called Bailieboro, outside the beautiful city of Peterboro, Ontario, Joseph became the private tutor to the children of a family called Pengelly.

The two thousand acre Pengelly farm on the banks of Rice Lake was the scene of many happy moments for him, teaching the Pengelly children, ministering in the farm's log chapel built for the pioneer families (for Joseph was a follower of Jesus Christ), and he found the love of a beautiful young lady of twenty-three, the niece of Commander Pengelly. But that love was to be short-lived. Once again the plans for a wedding were cut short when his second fiancée died following a brief illness. At the age of twenty-three she went to be with her new found Lord.

Though a Christian's heart does not sorrow over death, as those without hope, one can fully sympathize with the young Irishman over this second tragic loss of a sweetheart.

Joseph never married. On an August night in 1886, he became ill, and, flushed with fever wandered out of the house. On the morning of August 10, after an all night search, his friends found him on the banks of Rice Lake in an attitude of prayer, but his spirit had fled his body. Tenderly he was laid to rest in the little Pengelly cemetery at Port Hope, Ontario, beside the mortal remains of her whom he loved so well.

During thirty-one winters, the snows of Ontario covered the graves on the hill. And no one seemed to notice. But one day an amazing thing happened.

The Premier of Ontario, Canada, and 6,000 people gathered by the graves of Joseph and his sweetheart Eliza Catherine, to dedicate a monument thirteen feet high to the memory of the Irish immigrant whose name was Joseph Scriven. On that occasion, Premier E. C. Drury of Ontario paid this tribute:

"He did not build a railway or amass a fortune. But he did more than that. He contributed a thought that will outlive railroads and fortunes. It will go on enriching the lives of men,

when other things of a material nature have crumbled and perished."

What was the thought he contributed? Out of life's tragedies he had discovered the greatest truth of all! Just prior to his death a friend found among Joseph's belongings, a bit of paper on which a poem was scrawled.

You may not remember the name, Joseph Scriven, but you'll remember the message he left to the world.

Scriven originally called his poem "Pray Without Ceasing," written after the death of Eliza, and particularly to comfort his grieving mother in Ireland. It was later called "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.

By Bob Bowman

In The Log of the Good Ship Grace, September, 1974

Our main business is not to see what lies dimly in the distance but to do what lies clearly at hand. Selected

BUILDING A TEMPLE

A builder builded a temple;
He wrought it with grace and skill;
Pillars and groins and arches
All fashioned to work his will.
Men said as they saw its beauty,
"It shall never know decay.
Great is thy skill, O builder:
Thy fame shall endure for aye."

A teacher builded a temple
With loving and infinite care,
Planning each arch with patience,
Laying each stone with prayer.
None praised her unceasing efforts;
None knew of her wondrous plan,
For the temple the teacher builded
Was unseen by the eyes of man.

Gone is the builder's temple,
Crumbled into dust;
Low lies each stately pillar,
Food for consuming rust.
But the temple the teacher builded
Will last while the ages roll,
For that beautiful, unseen temple
Is a child's immortal soul.

--Author unknown

If people would do what they should, they would not have
time to do what they should not. Selected

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

A Worshipful Attitude During the Devotional Period

What is worship? Worship is honor, respect, or reverence given to someone or something. When worship is voluntary and spontaneous, it becomes an attitude of the heart and mind. Every teacher should endeavor to maintain this worshipful attitude in each devotional period.

To maintain a worshipful attitude, *the devotional leader must be inspired*. Inspiration comes from study and preparation. The more familiar we become with our subject and the better we understand it, the more inspired we will be.

Student participation helps maintain a worship attitude. Ask questions that require answers. Allow students to select songs. If a portion of the Scriptures will be read, have students take turns reading a verse at a time or responsively.

Student attention is essential for maintaining a worshipful attitude. Are students' eyes wandering or their hands occupied? Require their attention to be focused on the devotional leader, desk tops cleared of unnecessary items, desk lids closed, and their feet on the floor. Taking notes helps focus on devotions.

Choose topics that match the age level of students in an effort to maintain a worshipful attitude. Bible stories told simply inspire little ones, but upper grade students enjoy having some practical truths drawn from these Bible accounts.

Respect the time allotted for the devotional period to help maintain a worshipful attitude. A lengthy devotional is apt to tire the mind and create listlessness. Habitually taking more than the allotted time tends to create boredom from the start.

When the devotional period is also a worship experience, the teacher and the students are better prepared to face the day.

-- By Wendell R. Eberly,
The Christian School Builder, March 1994

BAPTISM

Alyssa Beery Williamsport, Indiana October 25
Praise God for another dear soul deciding to follow the
Savior. May she serve in His Kingdom all her days.

DIVISIONS

Divisions are the work of sin
When Satan seeks to enter in
To scatter love and peace and joy
And all the work of God destroy.

Divisions we are told to shun;
God wants His people to be one.
Love binds together with such ties
And the power of sin defies.

Divisions in the family show
The sum of misery and woe,
And in the Church divisions are
The proof, and show the loss of power.

Divisions in the Church of God
Whom He has purchased with His blood?
No! In the garden, God the Son
Prayed that His people might be one.

J. I. Cover

This poem of my father's written years ago finds agreement in my heart. In our time tragic divisions are taking place--in the church congregations and in the homes. If these divisions must be in our congregations, may it be only organizational. May we retain love, respect, and communication. If these are lost, we are divided indeed, and may God have mercy on us. --L.C.

OBITUARY

JACOB GIBBEL, son of Jacob Depin and Lizzie A. (Hosetter) Gibbel, was born January 4, 1922, in Berks County, Pennsylvania. He passed away October 25, 2009, at Rest Haven, Greenville, Ohio.

When Jacob was ten years old his father died; when he was twelve his mother died. He lived with his married brother, Rufus, helping on the farm and running a bulldozer.

In 1939 he answered the call and was baptized in the Frystown Dunkard Brethren Church, PA. Jacob was installed as a deacon in the early 1960's. They joined the Old Brethren Church in 1990.

On March 31, 1945, he married Mary Anna Brumbaugh at her home near Potsdam, Ohio, and they were blessed with one son and two daughters; however, Linda lived only a few hours. Mary passed two years ago, on October 24, 2007.

Most of their years Jake worked as a heavy equipment operator in Ohio. They lived in Pennsylvania, helping church and community members, moved to Homestead, Florida, Collins, Mississippi, then back to Greenville, Ohio, in 1998 to be closer to the Old Brethren .

He is survived by son Richard and his wife, Barbara; and daughter, Dixie Heisey and husband, Duane; five grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren; and two great, great grandchildren and many nephews and nieces. Besides his wife, Mary, daughter Linda, and his parents, his siblings, brother Rufus, sisters, May Myers and Amy Kegerreis have gone on before him.

Funeral services were October 29th at the Kreitzer Funeral Home, Arcanum, Ohio, with Elders Tom Royer and Daniel Beery officiating. Burial was at the Mote Cemetery near Pittsburgh, using hymns *Remember Me* and others.

We commit him into the hands of our Heavenly Father.

FOR YOUTH

A THANKFUL SPIRIT

We thank Thee, O Father, for all that is bright--
The gleam of the day and the stars of the night,
The flowers of our youth and the fruits of our prime,
And blessings that march down the pathway of time.

We thank Thee, O Father, for all that is drear--
The sob of the tempted, the flow of the tear;
For never in blindness and never in vain,
Thy mercy permitted a sorrow or pain.

We thank Thee, O Father, for song and for feast--
The harvest that glowed and the wealth that increased;
For never a blessing encompassed earth's child,
But Thou in Thy mercy looked downward and smiled.

We thank Thee, O Father of all, for the power
Of aiding each other in life's darkest hour--
The generous heart, and the bountiful hand,
And all the soul help that sad souls understand.

We thank Thee, O Father, for days yet to be--
For hopes that our future will call us to Thee,
That all our eternity forms, through Thy love,
One Thanksgiving Day in the mansions above.

--Will Carleton

From *Poems for Our Boys and Girls*

Study these Thanksgiving verses. See how many of the blanks you can fill without looking up the reference.

1. Psalm 50:14 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy _____ unto the most _____.
2. Psalm 95:2 Let us come before his _____ with thanksgiving and make a joyful _____ unto him with Psalms.
3. Psalm 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with _____; be _____ unto him, and bless his name.
4. Jonah 2:9 But I will _____ unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have _____. Salvation is of the Lord.
5. II Corinthians 4:15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many _____ to the glory of God.
6. II Corinthians 9:11 Being _____ in every thing to all bountifulness, which _____ through us thanksgiving to God.
7. Philippians 4:6 Be careful for _____; but in every thing by prayer and _____ with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
8. Colossians 2:7 _____ and built up in him, and _____ in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.
9. Colossians 4:2 Continue in _____, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.
10. I Timothy 4:4 For every _____ of God is good, and nothing to be _____, if it be received with thanksgiving.

Item	Mean	SD	Item	Mean	SD
1. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75	11. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75
2. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75	12. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75
3. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75	13. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75
4. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75	14. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75
5. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75	15. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75
6. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75	16. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75
7. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75	17. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75
8. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75	18. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75
9. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75	19. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75
10. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75	20. I am a person who is very sensitive to criticism	2.85	0.75

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

The friendly Christmas spirit
Has gone from door to door
In towns and in the country
To bring us joy once more.

It makes the passing stranger
Seem almost like a friend.
It multiplies the greetings,
And smiles have no end.

It speaks of cheerful giving,
And, "Peace, goodwill to men."
But when the season's over,
Where is the feeling then?

Oh, that the Christ-like spirit
Would have the strength and sway
The pleasant Christmas spirit
Holds o'er our land today!

Then peace and love would render
Their blessings deep and true,
And melodies of gladness
Would last the whole year through!

-Mary Elaine Miller in *My Home by the River*

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TO BE LIKE JESUS

"O to be like Thee, Blessed Redeemer!" We sing with sincere longing, but do we really know what we are asking?

Jesus, the Son of God, Co-Creator, King of the universe, was born in a stable, laid in a manger; reared by ordinary, humble mother and step-father in Nazareth, a poor, "dirty village." (*Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?*) We are without the titles or the divinity. For us the step down would not be so great. But would we choose to be born and reared this way? Do we know what we sing?

Consider the story about a Dauphin, (the oldest son of a French king.) The boy is dying, and his parents and all the attendants of the palace are weeping for him. He calls for soldiers and cannon to defend him from death. He asks the priest if his friend might die in his place if he gave him a lot of money. At last he orders that his richest clothes be brought so he might be recognized in heaven as a king's son. To all this, the priest tells him it is false hope. The boy then bitterly cries, "Why, then, to be a Dauphin is nothing at all!"

We on earth, like the Dauphin in the story, have false hopes about any greatness of our own. But Jesus gave up His divine privileges and lived among us--even being tempted like us, yet without sin. *O to be like Thee, Blessed Redeemer!*

At this time of year, minds are turned to Jesus in the manger. We sing of the message of the angels: "Peace on earth; good will toward men." We cherish the "tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." But do we understand the sacrifice Jesus made to bring this peace from God? He prophesied to His disciples, "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and

unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him. . ." Do we still want to sing the song? But Jesus finishes ". . .and the third day he shall rise again." We want to be like Him in His resurrection. Here the tidings of great joy are fulfilled.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed, man fell from God's favor. Now God had a controversy with His people. But God devised a plan for our salvation even before man fell. "(Jesus) his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." (I Peter 2:24)

O to be like Thee, Blessed Redeemer! --L.C.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors

This subject is so vital to each Christian. To be forgiven, we must forgive. To be forgiving means we will be forgiven.

Christ left us with a very monumental choice here in this phrase of our Lord's prayer. The forgiveness we all need is contingent on our willingness to forgive others. There is not one of us that hasn't faced this situation before. **Forgive if you want to be forgiven.**

What is forgiveness? To forgive a debt would mean to write "PAID" across an unpaid bill. It would mean to no longer require any compensation for a product we supplied or a service we rendered. Forgiveness means no longer holding another accountable for a wrong that was committed against us.

Forgiveness seems so simple to explain and completely beyond mortal man to attain. Forgiveness cannot be done with selfish motives or hoping for something in return. True forgiveness allows us to go forward, *always*. Without true forgiveness we will disintegrate, *always*.

So, what is *true* forgiveness? It is no longer feeling the pain of a wound inflicted by a brother or sister, friend or foe. I would insert here that it is no longer feeling the *pain*; the incident which caused the wound may be a permanent memory, but the pain associated with it must not be.

True forgiveness is the opposite of holding a grudge. It is the uprooting of bitterness. It plucks out the seeds of discord among brethren.

I stated earlier that forgiveness cannot be attained by mortal man alone. I believe that. We have Christ's perfect example of forgiveness as He hung dying on the cross with the penalty for all our sins weighing Him down. As the blood flowed, He cried in intense pain, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Those words resound through time down to us. We are forgiven through that perfect sacrifice, and we also can understand how to forgive. We can think, "If Christ forgave me, I should also forgive my brother." But more importantly, we must think, "If Christ forgave my brother, then what right do I have not to forgive him?"

Are we willing to forgive those who trespass against us? The wound they inflict may be deep. Even if the consequences are still affecting you, you still need to forgive. You will not find peace until you can write "PAID" across that trespass--paid for by the blood of Jesus. The peace that will flow in once the step is made is beyond words and knows no end.

(Reprinted from December, 2005)

Peter Cover, Tuolumne, California

A FAITHFUL TEACHER --AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

This is a story that took place more than seventy-five years ago in Communist Russia. Surely, the freedom to worship God unhindered is a precious freedom indeed!

Many years have passed, but how well we recall Peter Konrad! It was Christmas Eve, and none of us who were there that night will ever forget how he stood before us, gaunt, tall, and slightly bent from peering through his heavy gold-rimmed glasses. Silvery hair fringed his bald head, and he nodded slowly as he spoke to us.

"My friends," he said, "let us all remember this night in the troubled days that are surely coming for us. It might seem to us that the light has left our land, but let us not lose faith in God and the Saviour."

For more than twenty years Peter Konrad had taught the children of the village of Grossfeld, deep in the heart of the Ukraine. Teaching was his whole life, and every year there was a new crop of bright-eyed youngsters in the school that stood in the center of the little village. Having never married, he looked on his students as his own special family.

Nineteen hundred and twenty-four was nearly gone, and spiritual gloom that had fallen on Russia was much deeper than any starless night. "Lenin is our father! There is no god! Workers of the world, unite! Down with the kulaki!" These dreadful slogans rang through the land, and God-fearing men trembled. Slowly, but always more emphatically, the government enforced the new order. Five years they had given themselves to eradicate Christianity, and they knew where to begin. All religious instruction was forbidden in the public schools.

On the morning of December first, Teacher Konrad stood before the children, who had just sung the morning hymn, which he had followed by a brief, fervent prayer. His voice was sad and troubled as he spoke to them.

"Children," he said, "it is hard for us to understand why these terrible things happen, but God still wants us to believe and trust in Him. Today I must tell you that a new order has come from the government, forbidding all Christian observances

in the schools. We know that Christ was born to be our Savior, and in our hearts we will again rejoice because of His birth. Perhaps we shall find a way to have our usual worship service together."

Grossfeld had never had a church, being part of the congregation of neighboring Linden. So each year on Christmas Eve young and old had gathered in the school to hear the timeless songs of Christ's birth, and to listen with reverent joy to Teacher Konrad's simple message of God's love. This had become a hallowed tradition, and it seemed incredible that now it should end.

December was unusually mild that year. There was one light snowfall which soon turned to rain, and the warm air continued to blow from the south, day after day. As long as anyone could remember, there had never been such a mild winter.

Opposite the school, on the other side of the wide street lay the "Wirtschaft" of Jakob Schmidt, Peter's best friend. He had heard of the new ruling of the government, and it troubled him to see his friend's anxiety. Surely some way should be found to give the children their beloved "Heilige Abend."

When he looked out of his barn door on the morning of December 23, and saw the water lying in shining pools on his yard, he suddenly got an inspiration. "Anna," he said to his wife, who had come to call him for breakfast, "Why can't we have 'Heilige Abend' in our barn? If we put up the little iron stove and keep it going all afternoon, the barn would be warm enough. I'm going to talk to Peter as soon as I've had my breakfast."

That same day the message went from door to door. At the school there was great excitement and an air of eager expectation, as lines and songs were given their final polish.

It grew dark early that evening, and soon people began to arrive, guided along the wet street by the dim light of lanterns.

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The Lord's Prayer -Peter Cover	May, Jun-Jul, Aug-Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec
The Message of the Carols -L.C.	Dec
The Principal Thing -L.C.	Mar
The Temple of God -Joseph Wagner	Mar
The Virtuous Woman -Nancy Beidler	Mar
Thistles and Sin -L.C.	Jun-Jul
To Be Like Jesus -L.C.	Dec

Tried and Tempered -Joseph Wagner	Oct
Warm or Cold -L.C.	Feb
With Love from Mother -Mary Ann Martin	May

POEMS

A Christian's Request -Ben Cover	Mar
A New Year -Sel	Jan
A Reverie. . . of John the Beloved -By H.J.S.B. -Sel	Jan
Brokenness -Miriam J. Sauder	Jun-Jul
Building A Temple -Sel	Nov
Diamond in the Rough -Sel	Oct
Divisions -J. I. Cover	Nov
Follow Me -M. B. Sleight	Oct
God of Our Fathers -Daniel C. Roberts	Nov
He Is Risen -Guy Hootman	Apr
How Much We Owe -Sel by Norman Sauder	Apr
Humility, Thou Secret Vale -William G. Schell	Feb
Making Bread -Sarah Martin	Dec
Mother -Mary E. Miller	May
My Brother -Guy Hootman	Mar
My New Year Aim -Pearl Howard	Jan
No Disappointment in Heaven -F. M. Lehman	
Sel by Mervin & Gloria Hilty	Mar
No Room? -L. H. Burkholder in Wee Lambs	Dec
One Thing More -Sel	Jan
Only Just A Minute -Sel	Jan
The Best Tribute -Mary E. Miller	May
The Cross Was His Own -Sel	Apr
The Christmas Spirit - Mary Elaine Miller	Dec
The Refiner's Fire -Sel	Aug-Sep
The Resurrection -J. I. Cover	Apr
The Teacher -Leslie P. Hill	Aug-Sep
Trust -Mary E. Miller	Feb
Victory-Sharon Pletcher -Sel. by Justin & Orpha Meyers	Jan

Sermon quotes:

"We prove our faith by the life we live."

"Christians are the preserving element of the world."

Sam and Rosanna Royer

BAPTISMS

Hans Bayer	Mar 29	Eric Skiles	Jul 26
Jubal Bayer	Mar 29	Rosanna Stalter	Aug 9
Joseph Tate	Apr 12	Nathan Tate	Aug 9
Michelle Guthrey	Jun 19	Alyssa Beery	Oct 25
Melody Royer	Jul 3	Katrine Martin	Nov 22
Judith Martin	Jul 3	Garritt Golding	Nov 22
Evan Martin	Jul 3		

BIRTHS

Vanessa Nicole Wagner	Jan 14	Janae Leann Golding	May 31
Marshal Avery Stalter	Jan 31	Kezia Jo Moser	Jun 18
Alanna Cherish Beery	Feb 2	Matthew Alex Coning	Jun 24
Kate Elizabeth Johnson	Feb 22	Payton Melissa Royer	Jul 6
Hans David Harris	Feb 25	Kayla Nicole Cover	Jul 6
Kelsie Deann Wagner	Dec. 6, 07	Jadon Will Martin	Aug 7
Rec'd by adoption Mar 12, 09		Ezra Leroy Huffman	Aug 24
Janessa Paige Royer	Mar 17	Landon Daniel Frick	Aug 27
Braxton Craig Royer	Apr 3	Nettie Ann Martin	Sep 12
Joelle Brooke Royer	Apr 14	Autumn Rose Flora	Oct 6
Jasmine Willow Royer	Apr 15	Shaniah Dawn Meyers	Nov 8
April Erin Royer	Dec 2, 08	Britney Shea Martin	Nov 21
Rec'd by adoption Apr 29, 09			

OBITUARIES

Dr. Thomas R. Anderson June 14, 1954 - November 27, 2008

Jacob Gibbel January 4, 1922 - October 25, 2009

MARRIAGES

Ian Savage and Charlesta Hilty March 28

Marcus Royer and Diana Stalter June 20

Randy Brown and Laura Ordway July 4

FOR YOUTH

Blessed Are the Young People -David & Elva Royer	Jan
Do Not Let Go My Hand -Lora Huffman	Feb
Bible Quiz	Mar
Another Bible Quiz	Apr
Of Puzzles -Susanna K. Tate	May
Bible Quiz	Jun-Jul
Our Commitment for This Year -Luke Bennetch	Aug-Sep
Bible Events	Oct
A Thankful Spirit -Will Carleton	Nov
Thanksgiving Verses -Fill the blanks	Nov
The Odds Are Against Evolution -Pulpit Helps	Dec

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Twelve Spies and Giants -Linda Frick	Jan
A Bridled Tongue -Martha J. Wagner	Feb
Behaving Wisely -Linda Frick	Mar
Sorry But Wiser - <i>Wee Lambs</i>	Apr
Nancy and Rex - <i>The Church Correspondent</i>	May
A Lesson From A Blind Girl -Jean Martin	Jun-Jul
Me Want Drink -Ruth H. Landis in <i>Wee Lambs</i>	Aug-Sep
A Cup of Cold Water -Martha J. Wagner	Oct
When Children Eat -Margaret H. Yoder	Nov
No Room -Wee Lambs	Dec

The old year to us now is gone

The new year takes its place;

And may it bring to every one

New love, new joy, new peace. (Hymn #340)

... is our greeting to you, our faithful supporters, as we review volume #55 of The Pilgrim. Thank you to Bill Miller for another year of address labels, to Sarah Martin for updates and the index, and writers who've shared. The Yellow Creek Brethren and others have given financially, but we still depend on regular subscriptions. Your expiration date appears on your address label. If you are receiving The Pilgrim as a gift, please let us know if we should continue.

Because of Jesus, Leslie and Martha Cover

Parents carrying their little ones, and groups of young people, some helping the old and feeble, all had the same destination. One by one the oil lamps in the homes were quenched, and when the last party had passed through the barn door, the whole village was dark.

Farmer Schmidt's stable had two main sections. One end housed his livestock, while hay, straw, and his farming machinery were stored in the larger section. Here he had cleared a space large enough to hold the two hundred men, women, and children who were now waiting quietly for Peter Konrad to begin his service. The little potbellied stove had taken the dampness out of the air. The only light came from two lanterns that were hung above the improvised stage. Their meager rays were lost in the high rafters, where pigeons cooed drowsily. Through the open door that led to the cow stable came the crunching noise of feeding animals. There were no windows here that might have revealed the unusual gathering.

With deep reverence the people of Grossfeld listened as Teacher Konrad read the sacred story from Luke's Gospel. When he came to the words, "and she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn," he paused, and there was a breathless silence. Young and old realized the unspoken significance. Never before, even in the most beautifully decorated church or festive home, had this great truth spoken to their hearts as it did now in the dark stable, with the forces of evil rampant in the land.

In fine order the children presented their program. Sweetly they sang of the shepherds, the angels, and the Child in the manger, and for an hour the people forgot about their adversities and care, and the wonderful story lifted their hearts and filled them with hallowed joy.

Unknown to the devout worshippers in the stable, a rider had entered the dark village, and had stopped in front of the

school. The light breeze had died down completely, and the night was silent as a tomb. For awhile neither horse nor rider moved, but suddenly the horse cocked his ears and turned his head toward the farmstead across the street. The rider listened intently and now, carried faintly on the night air, he could hear the sound of singing, the singing of children. He waited a few minutes more, then quietly turned his horse and left. No one had seen him come or go.

After the last song was sung and the last verse recited, Peter Konrad rose to speak his final words. "Dear friends," he began, "tonight my heart is full to overflowing. Once more we have heard the precious story. God in His heaven alone knows whether we shall ever meet this way again. But whatever happens to us in the days to come, we can be sure of one thing: Christ has promised to be with us to the end of the world. Go home now, my friends, and take this precious promise with you.

"And you dear children, who are so close to my heart, may you never forget this night. It could well be that I'll soon have to leave you, and that others will become your teachers. They will tell you that the story of Christ's birth is only a fable or a fairy tale. I pray for you, that then your faith may be strong. Hold fast to Jesus, your Saviour, and God bless you all."

He was the last to leave the stable, and now, as he walked toward his lonely rooms, a great peace filled his heart. Fear and anxiety for the future had left him, and he fell into dreamless sleep.

At midnight there was a knock on the door. When he opened it, he saw the dim outlines of several horsemen. In gruff tones, their leader told him to dress quickly and pack what he could carry. They made him walk ahead of them down the muddy street, and so they left the village. No one ever saw him again.

Some of the people of Grossfeld were able to leave that unhappy land to find another home where there was freedom

and a new life. There were also those who followed Peter Konrad into banishment. But wherever that little flock may be scattered, they all remember the tall, gray-haired man who spoke those unforgettable words in Jakob Schmidt's dimly-lit stable that long ago Christmas Eve.

Reprinted from *The Vindicator*, Dec. 1970
and *Family Life*, Dec. 2002

BAPTISMS

Katrine Martin	New Paris, Indiana	November 22
Garritt Golding	Wakarusa, Indiana	November 22

We trust that these dear young Christians will fill their places in the Kingdom by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

BIRTHS

MEYERS - A daughter, Shaniah Dawn, born November 8 to Justin and Orpha Meyers of Goshen, Indiana.

MARTIN - A daughter, Britney Shea, born November 21 to Micah and Laura Martin of New Paris, Indiana.

THE MESSAGE OF THE CAROLS

It came upon a midnight clear, while shepherds watched their flocks by night, that Jesus Christ was born. It was a silent night, a holy night in the little town of Bethlehem that joy came to the world. O come all ye faithful to worship and adore Him. Come all ye shepherds that hear the angels on high; come three kings of Orient following the beautiful star of Bethlehem. Hither ye faithful! Christ is born in Bethlehem away in a manger. Jesus, Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown; heralded by the star of the East, You brought the unsearchable riches. O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord. Glory be to God! --L.C.

MAKING BREAD

Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Matthew 13:33

Lord, this parable is about making bread
On home's floured counter, in the verse I have read.
A woman is taking three measures fine meal,
Hiding the leaven, mixing with love and skill;
Kneading the bread dough, then letting it rise,
Fashioning loaves into soft bread children prize.

Lord, this parable is about girls and boys
In the home amidst laundry, clutter, and toys.
A mother takes the measures she's given,
Tells them of Jesus, His way is the leaven;
Teaches and trains them, hoping they will rise
To meet their day's challenge, and win the prize.

Lord, this parable is more real to me when
I'm home amidst duty rearing boys into men.
At breakfast, at dinner, and at suppertime
I fail so often--need Your leaven divine
To soften my heart, make it wholly arise
Through Thy blessed Word, there we all win the prize.

Sarah Martin

New Madison, Ohio

First talk to God about your children--
then talk to your children about God.

FOR YOUTH
THE ODDS ARE AGAINST EVOLUTION

Examine natural law and you cannot help reaching the conclusion that He who put it all together and makes it function so perfectly must be all-wise. Dr. A. Cressy Morrison, former president of the New York Academy of Sciences, in his book *Man Does Not Stand Alone*, was absolutely right when he pointed out that one of the reasons he believes in the existence of God is that, by unwavering mathematical law, we can prove that our universe was designed and executed by a great engineering Intelligence (Logos):

Suppose you put ten pennies, marked from one to ten, into your pocket and give them a good shuffle. Now try to take them out in sequence from one to ten, putting back the coin each time and shaking them all again. Mathematically, we know that your chance of first drawing number one is one in ten; of drawing one and two in succession one in 100; of drawing one, two, and three in succession, one in 1,000, and so on; your chance of drawing them all, from number one to number ten in succession, would reach the unbelievable figure of one in ten billion.

By the same reasoning, so many exacting conditions are necessary for life on the earth that they could not possibly exist in proper relationship by chance. The earth rotates on its axis 1,000 miles an hour at the equator; if it turned at 100 miles an hour, our days and nights would be ten times as long as now, and the hot sun would likely burn up our vegetation each long day, while in the long night any surviving sprout might well freeze.

(As condensed in *The Reader's Digest* from Man Does Not Stand Alone, New York: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1944.)

By looking at nature and examining the laws under which it operates and is sustained, we are moved to shout, "How great Thou art!" But by looking at the cross of Christ we are moved to confess, "How loving Thou art!"

By Spiros Zodhiates in Pulpit Helps, Oct. 1960,
published by AMH Publishers, Chattanooga, TN 37422

CHILDREN'S PAGE

NO ROOM

No room in the inn for Jesus?

No room, just a stable of hay,
With the cattle around and about Him;
And a manger in which the Child lay.

No room in the inn for Jesus?

No room--is that what they said?
Oh, I would have been so happy
To give Him my own little bed.

L. H. Burkholder In *Wee Lambs*

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